

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

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MARRIAGE

On February 11th, at Shanghai, GABRIEL THIESSEN, J. M. C., to Mrs. CHRISTINA MURRAY CAMPBELL.

DEATHS.

On February 14th, at 16 Morison Hill Road, EMILY, the dearly beloved daughter of ANNETTA PAPIER, aged 22 years.—Shanghai papers please copy.

On January 7th, at Florence, FRANCES ANNETTE, the wife of THOMAS CHILD HAYLLAR, late K. C., of Hongkong.

Hongkong Weekly Press.

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ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The English Mail of January 26th arrived per the ss. *Delta*, on Friday, the 23rd instant.

FAR EASTERN NEWS.

Dr. Kaname Haraguchi has been engaged as a railway engineer by the Chinese Government, at Y 12,000 a year.

The German Emperor has conferred upon Sir Robert Bredon the Order of the Crown of Prussia, 2nd class, with the Star.

The Tientsin Club now has a fine new Club-house, which was inaugurated by a very successful fancy dress ball on Feb. 8th.

A coolie was knocked down by a tramcar on February 21st in Connaught Road West. He was removed to the Government Civil Hospital with the flesh torn in shreds from his left leg. Amputation was necessary, and the unfortunate native is not expected to recover.

A Nanking dispatch states that Viceroy Chon Fu, of Nanking, has telegraphed to the Waiwupu asking the Board's sanction to his proposed appointment of Mr. John Goodnow, former U.S. Consul-General at Shanghai, to be his Excellency's special adviser on international matters.

The *Nanfengpao* says that H.E. Chang Yin-tang, Special Chinese Commissioner for negotiating the Tibetan Treaty, has wired to the Waiwupu stating that since the resumption of treaty negotiations, the specially-appointed British Commissioner has shown a quite conciliatory attitude, but the Indian Viceroy demands that Great Britain shall have the right to all mining and railway privileges in Tibet, and that not only shall other nations be debarred from sharing these privileges, but China herself must consult Great Britain before participating therein; and that the negotiations will not be concluded on any other basis. The Waiwupu is requested to wire instructions anent the matter, but it has not done so yet.

The Empress Dowager commanded the other day several princes of the Imperial Houses to send their young sons into the Palace where tutors had been provided to instruct them, as it was intended to select the best one to succeed his Majesty Kuang Hsi at some future day, should the Emperor himself (as is probable) die childless. It is now stated that among the youthful princes who have been admitted into the Palace, their Majesties appear to like the sons of Prince Tsai Chên, 4th order (Prince Ching's son); Prince Yü Hsin, 4th order (Prince Chên's grandson); and Prince Tsai Hsun, 3rd order (the Emperor's fourth brother) better than the others, and the Emperor is especially fond of his nephew, that is to say, the son of the last-named prince. It is supposed that this youthful prince, whose name is Pu Kuang, will be proclaimed heir-apparent before long.

Mr. G. Laferrière, the Secretary of the French Municipal Consul at Shanghai, has just passed through a most unpleasant and astonishing experience. About 4 a.m. on Tuesday, 13th inst., the Secretary, who lives at the Municipal Hall, was awakened from sleep to find himself in the clutches of an assailant who seemed to be making a violent effort to strangle him. Mr. Laferrière thought at first he was suffering from a bad dream, but on realising the actual gravity of the situation, struggled violently and secured his revolver which was lying near, but unfortunately was not loaded. He succeeded, however, in beating off his man, who fled but was captured a little way off by the police. It then appeared that he was a coolie who had formerly been in Mr. Laferrière's employ and whom his master, says the *Echo de Chine*, had lately allowed to leave with regret. It is thought that the coolie, knowing the way about the house, had intended robbery from a small strong-box in Mr. Laferrière's room; that he was startled by the unusual presence of a light in the room, the electric light switch having refused to disconnect, and that he considered his only safety lay in making this personal attack. He has left the marks of his fingers well printed on Mr. Laferrière's neck. A curious incident is that the house servants protest that they heard nothing, though Mr. Laferrière called for them repeatedly.

The opening ceremony at the office of the Resident-General in Corea was held on the morning of the 1st instant. All the officials of the Residency-General attended and General Hasegawa, Acting Resident-General, in a brief address requested the officials to be diligent in their duties. Mr. Hayashi, Japanese Minister, and Mr. Tsuruhara responded. The health of the Emperor was then toasted and "Banzai" given. The whole ceremony was very simple.

On Wednesday morning the Indian watchman named Luibo employed on the s.s. *Hongkong* at Kongmon volunteered to climb down to clear the propeller of a rope which had become entangled. He did so, but while he was below the propeller was suddenly set in motion, with the result that a blade struck the unfortunate man on the back and right side. He was brought to the surface in an unconscious condition, but died on the way to Hongkong, where his body was conveyed to the hospital.

A projected line is one that will connect Bhamo in north-east Burma with Momein; being the Burmese name for Ting-yueh or T'eng-yueh, and T'eng-yueh is about 120 miles to the north-east of Bhamo and in Yun-nan, that is, in China. At one time is looked very probable that the French advance northward would cut us off and render impossible the connection of Burma by rail with Yun-nan, but fortunately the advance was stayed, and now it seems that the connection will be soon an accomplished fact. At T'eng-yueh we have a consul, custom-house, telegraph office, etc. The town is on the bank of the river Tapin, which joins the Irawadi a few miles above Bhamo. Although this railway will link up Burma with Yun-nan in a way, it will not have immediate commercial value, as Yun-nan proper is some distance beyond T'eng-yueh, and traders who wish to come to the railway will have to cross the Salween and the Mekong, two large rivers, before they can reach the projected terminus of the line. Moreover, these rivers are banked by high mountains which will add to the difficulties of such a trade route. The *Avenir du Tonkin* remarks that scarcely three months have elapsed since the engineers, sent by the Indian Government to examine the possibilities of the locality for a railway, returned and reported, and already the line has been passed by the authorities and men of the Royal Engineers have commenced work. The line, therefore, is now in progress, and the gauge is fixed at 2ft. 6in.

PRINCE ARTHUR IN JAPAN.

Prince Arthur of Connaught landed at Yokohama on Monday, and was welcomed by a great crowd. The weather was beautifully fine.

H.R.H. was received at Shimbashi railway station, Tokyo, by the Emperor in person, a most unusual distinction. The station was crowded with notabilities. The preparations at Tokyo were on a magnificent scale, the streets being brilliantly decorated.

The investiture of H.I.M. the Emperor with the insignia of the Order took place on Tuesday with full ceremonial.

THE JAPANESE IN CHINA.

(Daily Press, 19th February).

According to a frequently noticed, but as yet imperfectly understood rule in vital statistics, that periods of great national excitement, or during which a nation is called on to make an unusual display of national energy, are frequently, if not invariably, accompanied by an increased birth-rate, it might be anticipated that the population of Japan is a rapidly increasing one. This is amply borne out by statistics. From the beginning of 1872 to 1905 the population of the Empire proper, excluding Formosa or residents out of the Islands, increased from 33 millions to nearly 48 millions, or as near as may be fifty per cent. At the latter date density of the population amounted to as nearly as possible 322 per square mile, which considering that owing to the mountainous nature of the country, more than half the land is forest, or otherwise untitled, must be taken as an unusually high rate. This, however, does not include the whole of the increase. During the last eight years the population of Formosa had grown by six hundred thousand, of whom practically the whole were Japanese, while continually greater numbers have since 1880 been settling in Corea, and since the war in Liaotung, and for the last two years since the fighting with Russia, the Japanese settlers in Kirin are becoming a by no means unimportant element in the population of Manchuria. This growth of an outer Japan is in effect one of the more marked developments in the Far East, and constitutes an element which politically cannot be lost sight of. In Shanghai, where but a few years ago the number of Japanese residents within the settlements was insignificant, the Japanese population now ranks next to the English; and as it is being recruited at a more rapid rate it may be anticipated that it will soon constitute the largest element in the foreign population. Even in the densely populated districts along the Yangtze valley, where it might be anticipated that room did not exist for a single inhabitant over and above the present number, the Japanese succeed in obtaining a foot-hold, and scarcely a town in the interior of China is too remote or too insignificant, but that under one form or other a search will unearth a little colony of Japanese, each of whom to the utmost of his personal ability is engaged in promoting the influence and interests of his own country. Lately *Engineering* has been drawing attention to these most recent exemplifications of the increasing population of Japan in *paribus*, and its remarks are worth quoting:—

"We learn that arrangements are being made not only for the utilisation of the resources of the territories which have come under the influence of Japan, but also for the settlement of large numbers of Japanese in them. The system of colonisation adopted by the Japanese in Corea has also been introduced in Manchuria on a considerable scale. Japanese civilians have been permitted to enter the country freely, and Antung, Fengwangcheng, Mukden, Dalny and Newchwang have already become populous Japanese cities. Newchwang, where there were only about 100 Japanese before the war, and 1,000 a year ago, has now 6,000 Japanese inhabitants, and this number is being further swelled by the arrival of from 50 to 100 immigrants daily. The military authorities are working a light railway between Antung and Fengwangcheng. In early summer these places had a population of more than

5,000 each, and they are still growing. Representatives of many large Japanese firms engaged in various enterprises have been investigating the possibilities of the country, and are impressed with its wealth."

It is true, as *Engineering* remarks, that "we cannot complain of this, for economic conditions and efficiency of work and organisation ultimately decide the industrial position of any country. Our economic conditions are rapidly changing—at least relatively to those of other countries—and our efficiency has lost much of the advantage it once showed over that of some of our competitors. Our evident duty is to make the most of our resources and to maintain our efficiency at the highest possible standard." Of course, we cannot restrain this overflowing of a rapidly growing country, nor is there in the phenomenon itself anything to excite alarms. Looking at the movement from the outside it is distinctly in our favour. The introduction of industries in a new country of itself cannot but be advantageous to our trade in the long run; and Manchuria with a large element in its population of energetic workers must necessarily be more profitable than Manchuria under the fitful and disorderly management of China. Were we in a position to adopt with Japan the rôle of settlers in this new and hitherto neglected country, we might make a struggle to compete, but the nature of the case shuts out competition of this kind. None the less, it is doubtful if we have taken to heart fully the new situation. We have, there is little doubt, been too content to accept without challenge the position that our economic conditions in regard to other countries are rapidly changing, and to assume as inevitable the result that our efficiency has lost its former advantages; we are, in fact, permitting ourselves to descend from the standard of an industrial a to more shop-keeping nation. In regard to this we may learn much from the Japanese. It is quite true that the Japanese settler in himself is little more than a petty shopkeeper, but he possesses in a remarkable degree the power of organisation, and organises in his new country his household as if he were in Japan; his servants, even, down to the most menial offices, are all Japanese, and every one engaged however remotely in business or household is of his own nationality. His household, in fact, forms an outpost of a great industrial army of occupation, and like a regularly organised army is regularly supported from the main body, relieved at intervals, and regularly visited by trained and commissioned officers from the home industrial associations. It is indeed in the organisation of these latter that the greater part of the success of the system resides. They not only assist the settler in his financial arrangements, but they make themselves through his instrumentality intimately acquainted with the requirements of any particular district, and report to the home bodies so that the want may be at once supplied; or if not at the moment manufactured the home bodies will, if the demand seem sufficient at once set about its production. In the same manner the productions of any district are made known in Japan in the shortest possible time, and if any commend themselves the home organisations know where to lay their hand on it instantly. Even without government aid or subsidies of any sort, the Japanese merchant in his national talent for organisation possesses a most powerful engine for advancing the national trade. But the Government does aid, and that betimes very successfully. Practically all the larger and very many of the smaller

lines, railway or steamboat, are subsidised and are able to accept lower rates from Japanese. This is not always done openly, but is managed in many indirect ways not always apparent. Trade and the encouragement of national industries are in fact the buttresses of the Japanese system, and it is under this system of modified and thinly veiled protection that Japan is rapidly becoming the most important factor, not merely in the politics, but in the industry of Eastern Asia. From neither point of view can we afford to shut our eyes to the remarkable growth of extra-insular Japan; though comparatively a small thing at present, yet even in its smallness not to be looked upon in trade or politics as a negligible quantity, the foundations are being laid deep for a future campaign having for its object the capture commercially as well as politically of the entire eastern seaboard of Asia. Well used we have nothing to lose in either particular, and may eventually make it fit in with our own aspirations political, social and commercial; but are we using it well, or is there any indication that we have the slightest inkling of its importance? One of the worst sequelae of the diseased Free-Trade of the Cobden Club is the indication it affords that we are rapidly as a nation losing the power of combination in commercial matters, and returning to the condition of each man for himself. In this respect the wonderful power of organisation, which more than anything else led to the success of the Japanese army in the field, is shown with equal clearness in the success which has attended their efforts to capture the commercial and industrial position. The victory at the polls of the opposite faction who would substitute for united action the disconnected units of personal opinion, however it may be according to first principles, is especially ill-timed at the present moment, when it comes in contact with the astonishing results of combined action.

PROTECTION OF MISSIONS IN CHINA.

(Daily Press, 20th February.)

Some time ago, it may be recollected, a statement appeared in the German papers to the effect that Germany contemplated taking in hand the task of the protection of Catholic Missions in China, which had hitherto been undertaken by France. Shortly afterwards it was asserted that this was not to be the case, and, so far as we know, nothing further was heard of the matter. It now appears that the subject was under consideration, but in a very different way to what was made to appear. As we surmised at the time, Germany was not in any way inclined to undertake the task of standing as the champion of all Catholic Missions in China, but, apparently, was ready to extend her protection to German Catholic Missions, which she is, of course, bound to give, as she would give it to any other German subjects in China who might require it. This seems to be the true nature of the discussion on the subject which took place, judging of it in the light of the remarks which were made in the Report of the Committee for Foreign Affairs of the Chamber of Deputies which was presented for the year. The writer, M. GERVAIS, does not hesitate to declare that the idea of placing French military power at the service of Christianity must be abandoned, as "the biased protection of those elements for which the Chinese people have only mediocre esteem draws down upon our Government on the part of the country

and the Mandarins the expression of the same feelings." French prestige, he holds, is not in any way enhanced by the protection of the Missions; and he goes on to say that the continued application of such a policy would on the contrary be likely to entail serious complications.

Allowance must, of course, be made, in accepting these utterances, for the anti-clerical movement which has of late years made so much progress in France, and has been the subject of so much discussion in that country. This may, to some extent, account for the stand which has been adopted on this subject; but, on the other hand, there can be little question, quite apart from any bias of this kind, that the view set forth by M. GERVAIN is in accordance with the facts; and that the French will do wisely to give up the protectorate of Catholic Missions must be the opinion of most persons who have had opportunity of judging of the practical effects of that measure. Experience amply demonstrates that, so far from increasing the influence of France in China, her assumption of this position has in reality seriously impaired it, and in no direction so much as in respect to the Mission themselves. The effect of taking up such an attitude was to cause the Chinese to look upon the work of Catholic Missions in China as specially political; and thus (in their case) to accentuate the difficulty which has attached to all missionary work in this country—the objection to which on the part of the officials has been always far more upon political than upon religious or moral grounds. And, in fairness, it cannot be denied that the Chinese have at times had some ground for complaint on this score. It is beyond denial that missionaries have on occasions been induced to use their positions in respect to native converts or members of their stations in ways that must have been irritating to the Chinese officials, and have not always shown the tact and consideration which are essential in dealing with such questions as are likely to arise. Such matters have long been a source of trouble to the Consular Authorities, and have often enough led to serious diplomatic difficulties. The Catholic missionaries have been credited with more interference in judicial and political matters than others; but whether there is any real foundation for this is open to question; as with the arrangement that France would act as protector of Catholic Missions, it may be taken as certain that their *protégés* would be looked upon with ill-favour by the officials, who would often be inclined to take more severe views of anything like interference on their part than they would with regard to the same acts by persons not under a special system of protection. In a certain way too such a protectorate itself had undoubtedly a political significance. It gave to France a certain status in China which no other nation possessed; and the importance of this was likely to be over-estimated by the Chinese, especially when the possibility of foreign conquest was prominently in the minds of the Chinese officials and was frankly considered as a matter within the range of practical politics by European nations. In the event of such a contingency arising the influence acquired by the protectorate of Missions might have proved of some value to France, though probably not of so much value as had been anticipated. Circumstances with regard to China, however, have now so much changed in this respect, that France can hardly look to any great material advantage in return for the trouble which she accepted in acting as protector of Catholic Missions

generally, and she is wise in concluding that she has quite enough responsibility in respect to Missions, so far as they can claim it as French subjects. It may be doubted very much whether Germany ever really contemplated taking up this position of protector of Christians generally in China as was at one time stated. Possibly this was given out with a view of raising the question as to the position of France in respect of the Catholic Missions, and of inducing her to abandon it. If such was the case, Germany has certainly done France good service. Nothing can militate more against her legitimate influence with High Chinese authorities than the special claim which she has in respect of Missions in the interior. It is notorious that it has always raised undue suspicions as to her intentions, and has stood in her way in regard to other and more legitimate demands which she might prefer. It would be to her advantage to abandon any special claims in this direction. They are not likely to benefit the Missions, which have a claim to protection upon the same grounds that persons of any foreign nationality have a right to assistance from their authorities in China; and it will be to the benefit of France herself and of the foreign Powers generally that no one nation be specially accepted as the recognised protector of Missions, either Catholic or of any other denomination.

GERMAN COTTON EXPORTS TO CHINA.

(Daily Press, 21st February.)

We referred not long ago to the bad habit of national pessimism, cultivated partly for propagandist purposes, and partly, as we reluctantly suggested, by an irresponsible press avid of sensation or perverted originality. Our comments referred, *inter alia*, to the pamphlet by Herr von BRANDT, formerly German Minister at Peking, circulated by the Hamburg-American Steamship Company. His alarmist statements, which we described as palpable exaggerations, were presumably prompted by a propagandist. They appear to have caused a good deal of discussion in German Chambers of Commerce and in the textile journals, about Germany's cotton-goods trade with China. The *Manchester Guardian*, usually well informed of all matters relating to this particular trade, takes our view of the general postulate, but adds an interesting opinion. It admits that German trade with China, in this line, is a comparative failure; and says the reason is that the German manufacturers cannot produce the gray and white goods that are the staple of the Chinese demand so cheaply as their English, American, and Indian competitors can. It is absurd to suppose that the Germans are not awake to the importance of the Chinese market, and the fact that Herr von BRANDT has had the opportunity to study the situation on the spot suggests to our mind that his statements were deliberately exaggerated to strengthen some *arrière-argument*, something in the style of the Tariff Reformer, perhaps. We prefer this theory to agreeing with our contemporary that the intelligent von BRANDT was "under the strange delusion that his fellow-countrymen in the cotton-trade are unaware of the great importance of the China market and are missing splendid opportunities through ignorance and lethargy." How often and how unjustly have British business-men been similarly charged with lethargy or indifference, by critics who had no conception of the obstacles and handicaps so apparent to those criticised? As the *Manchester paper* puts it, "the theory, widely held by non-

commercial persons, that great classes of business men are blind to their own business interests and opportunities, or, seeing them, need external encouragement and stimulation to make the most of them, has always seemed to us somewhat fantastic." Herr von BRANDT's object in thus impugning some of the most intelligent of his own countrymen may be guessed at, after noting his suggestion that the Anglo-Japanese Treaty and the British naval activity at Singapore were both directed at German commerce with China. As an imperialistic German, we can in that way make due allowance for his alarms. The Chamber of Commerce of München-Gladbach answered them with an argument that would doubtless cause rejoicing to Mr. CHAMBERLAIN's opponents. They declared that they could not compete with the English manufacturers because cotton yarn is dearer in Germany than in England. "It is," they said, "therefore useless to expect an increase in the German exports of grey goods to China. The exports of German prints to China may be considerably increased when China is in a position to purchase better-class cotton goods. German producers and exporters should co-operate more closely. The German export houses are independent, purchasing their goods in any country they please, and exporting them to the places where they have worked up a connection."

CHINESE LABOURING CLASSES.

(Daily Press, 22nd February.)

A curious illustration of the manner in which isolated facts are sometimes seized upon as a basis for very wide conclusions in matters connected with the Far East is afforded in some remarks made by Sir J. GOSSET in an article on the unemployed question which appeared in the *Fortnightly Review*. In order to enforce the proposition that acute distress is peculiar to Western civilisation and that in more primitive communities the human race is not exposed to misfortune of this kind, he states: "In China, whose ancient civilisation we regard as pitiable and ludicrous, and in which the population is more concentrated than in any part of the world, the industrial population is singularly free from that instability of condition and insecurity of prosperity, from which all Western people suffer," and as a warrant for this assertion, he quotes a statement of M. EUGENE SIMON, who was formerly French Consul in various parts of China, to the effect that the Chinese, when asked why they did not adopt Western industrial methods were in the habit of replying: "Large industries, such as exist in your country, ruin the individuality of workmen; they become machines and know only one trade. If the factory is stopped, the hands are thrown out of work and die of hunger. In our country, every man knows several trades; if one fails, he can fall back upon another. There is no cessation of work;" and M. SIMON then goes on to express his own opinion that there are few beggars in the towns in China, and in the country next to none. From these slender facts Sir JOHN GOSSET deduces the conclusion that the misery of workers in Western countries is a direct product of Western civilisation. Upon this basis he proceeds to discuss the general question and probably few will disagree with the suggestions which he makes as to the necessity of steps being taken for the amelioration of the condition of the masses at home; but it is somewhat unfortunate that he should have endeavoured to

strengthen his case by a reference to the state of affairs in China upon very doubtful and inadequate information.

How far professional mendicancy goes in China, it is naturally difficult for any European to say; though the fact that it is well known that in some places there exist "Beggars' Guilds" would certainly seem to indicate that there must be a very fair number in this condition; but as regards the "hand to mouth" people who make up the so-called "submerged tenth" in any country, anyone who has the slightest knowledge of Chinese cities and has seen anything of the wretched sampan population which is to be found in most of them, will be slow to believe that the indigent are less numerous in proportion to the general population in China than in most places in Europe. There would certainly not be more poverty, but far less, in China, if a portion of its population were employed in large factories, and the remarks of a few narrow-minded Chinese officials upon a point of this kind will scarcely be of much value in solving the difficult economical problems which are exercising the public mind at home at the present moment. The *couleur de rose* aspect of affairs which seems to have been accepted by M. SIMON and Sir JOHN GORST with so much avidity, is certainly not that which presents itself to men like the Abbé HUC and others who have intimate knowledge of the Chinese, and who have repeatedly called attention to the amount of destitution which exists in many parts of the country. We strongly suspect that in respect to other countries referred to by Sir JOHN GORST, for instance Egypt, he is under a similar mistake. He says, "In the city of Cairo, with its population of more than half a million, there is not a hungry person." This may be so, but anyone who has made a trip to the Pyramids may be excused if he has a shrewd idea that there are some hungry people not very far from the city of Cairo. The truth is that in comparisons of this kind we are apt to fall into the error of concluding that there is necessarily more poverty in the places where attention is called to it than in those where it is less a subject of observation. Of late years special attention has been drawn to the condition of the working classes and the poor in most places in Europe, but more especially in England; and from the facts which are thus brought under notice we are apt to conclude that things are worse there than in countries of which we know less. Certainly there are not many who will consider China a model to hold up to Europe on social and economical questions. The comfortable assurances of M. SIMON's native informant (probably his teacher) that under the Chinese system "there is no cessation of work" is hardly reconcilable with numbers of Chinese who are at all times ready to flock to any foreign country that will offer them even the roughest employment. There is, however, one point at which something may be learnt by the working classes in England from those in China, and that is that something may be done to stave off destitution by being willing to live more carefully and frugally while employment is still to be obtained. The British workman can never be in so good a position as one in China in this respect, as it is impossible for him to live upon a little rice and pork, as the masses of the working classes in China do. In this respect the Chinese, in common with many other Asiatics, stand at a great advantage, but even with this in their favour there is no question that in common with other people they often suffer great

distress. The English working man or labourer need not, however, look to China for a lesson in this direction. It has been repeatedly pointed out that much could be learnt by him in this respect from his brother workmen in France or in Germany; and there can be no doubt that whatever Government can do in the direction of social reform, permanent amelioration must depend largely upon an increase of intelligence and of habits of providence and foresight on the part of the working men themselves.

REGISTRATION OF CHINESE PARTNERSHIPS.

(Daily Press, 23rd February.)

Overlooking the report of the Committee appointed to enquire into the registration of Chinese partnerships, we introduced into our comments on Jan. 30th last a remark which appears to have misled the commercial community of Singapore. We said a Bill securing certain results would be hailed with approval by the banks and business men dealing with the Chinese. This has given Singapore the erroneous impression that Hongkong is unanimously in favour of legislation in this direction. The *Straits Times* of Feb. 14th, which quotes our remarks in full, says:—

The *Daily Press* of Hongkong has been airing views critical of the commercial community of Singapore in resenting the Registration of Partnerships Bill. Hongkong, it seems, nurses views on the subject that are alien to those entertained by the majority of members of our local Chamber of Commerce. Possibly the community there does not understand the situation in the Straits and the effects that such legislation will probably have upon our commerce. It, therefore, may be well to elucidate, for the benefit of the northern Colony, our position in the premises, and that can be best done by quoting *in extenso* the speech on the subject by the Hon. A. HUTTENBACH, which embodies all the arguments against the measure but which has hitherto not been published in full.

Our contemporary then gives the text of a very long effort of oratory by the gentleman named, which we have read and considered, and in it found nothing to make us want to modify the opinions we expressed. Extraordinary pressure on our space prevents us going into the subject matter again; but we wish to forestall further criticism of our former remark by briefly explaining the position in this Colony. So far as we understand it, the business community here would welcome any practicable legislation; but the general opinion of those in opposition is that at present such legislation is impracticable. Hongkong is in exactly the same position as Calcutta on the matter; the scheme presented too many difficulties, and is, therefore, dropped until the man and the time wash arrive to whom and when difficulties will appear but as things to be surmounted. The report of 1901 states that the members of the Commission of Enquiry, with one exception, were agreed that legislation was inadvisable, "though for different reasons." That is the present position in Hongkong; the need continues to be felt, the principle is admitted, but the matter is shelved because of its apparent impracticability.

The Empress-Dowager of China is exercising the greatest care and secrecy in the conduct of important affairs of State. She has instructed that all important memorials should be translated into Manchu before being submitted to the Throne, and that all important telegrams must be sent to her direct so as to prevent their contents being divulged. All secret Imperial edicts will, in future, be issued in Manchu and not in Chinese as heretofore.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Council was held at the Council Chamber on February 22nd.

PRESENT:—

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR, MAJOR SIR MATTHEW NATHAN, K.C.M.G.

HIS EXCELLENCY Major-General VILLIERS HATTON, C.B. (General Officer Commanding the Troops).

Hon. Mr. T. SERCOMBE SMITH (Colonial Secretary).

Hon. Sir H. S. BERKELEY, K.C. (Attorney-General).

Hon. Mr. A. M. THOMSON (Colonial Treasurer).

Hon. Mr. A. W. BREWIN (Registrar-General).

Hon. Captain L. A. W. BARNES-LAWRENCE, R.N. (Harbour Master).

Hon. Mr. W. CHATHAM (Director of Public Works).

Hon. Dr. HO KAI, M.B., C.M., C.M.G.

Hon. Mr. WEI YUK.

Hon. Mr. GERSHOM STEWART.

Hon. Mr. H. E. POLLOCK, K.C.

Mr. A. G. M. FLETCHER (Clerk of Councils).

MINUTES.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

HIS EXCELLENCY'S ADDRESS.

Before business commenced, His EXCELLENCY, in an address to the Council, said:—The need for the meeting of the Council to-day arises from the requirement of Ordinance No. 6 of 1837, that the Jury List for the year, which comes into force on March 1st, should previously be considered by the Council. It is also necessary to-day to continue the Summoning of Chinese Ordinance of 1899, which expires on the 30th March. This Ordinance enables the Registrar-General to summon Chinese from the New Territories for the purpose of inquiry into matters concerning the inhabitants of these territories. It is not often used, but it is desirable to have the power, and the Registrar-General has requested that it should be retained for at any rate another two years.

Advantage is taken of the meeting to-day to ask the Council to vote the sums entered in the Finance Minutes Nos. 1 to 6 that are before you. The first of these deals with a sum of \$8,000 to meet expenditure in connection with the visit of His Royal Highness Prince Arthur of Connaught. I authorised this expenditure being incurred with the full confidence that the vote would be passed by the Council. (Hear, hear.) The second Financial Minute is for a payment for services rendered last year by the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company. For the present year and for future years this payment will be considerably reduced by the establishment of direct communication between the Harbour Office and the various stations from which the approach of ships is signalled. Provision for this direct communication has, as you will remember, been made in the estimates for the year. Finance Minute No. 3 is on account of the new rifle range which it is proposed to establish on the Peak, mainly for the use of the Hongkong Volunteer Reserve Association. This is in pursuance of the general policy of the Government, a policy which, I am glad to say, has received the support of the public, to extend as much as possible the practice of rifle shooting in the Colony. Finance Minute No. 4 consists of two parts, of which the first, \$65,201, is a revote of sums voted last year for extraordinary public works necessitated by some of these works not having been completed during the year. Such a revote is required every year, as it is not possible to spend the exact amount sanctioned. Last year the revote amounted to \$71,836; this year, as I have stated, it is \$65,201. There is a further vote in the same Finance Minute of \$6,021 to cover some additional amounts in excess of those hitherto provided for the Bacteriological Institute, the Gunpowder Depot at Green Island, and the improvement of the Green Island Light, all of which new services have now been completed. By this small additional vote no excess is involved on the approved total estimates for

he work. A further amount of \$2,000 is for compensation to the owners of certain lands at Lyemun, necessitated by the exchange of lands with the War Department. The fifth Finance Minute is for a sum of \$3,040 to cover the cost of furnishing the officers' quarters recently erected at Taipo. These quarters are occupied by junior officers who could ill afford the expense of furnishing the house themselves, and it is proposed to charge them five per cent. on the value of the furniture which will be made available for them. The last Finance Minute is for the small sum of \$60 for the rent of the house in Taipo village where the Government dispenser resides. It had been suggested that accommodation for him should be provided in the buildings which it is proposed to erect for the magistrate of Taipo, but it was ultimately decided to continue the house in the village as being more accessible to the Chinese villagers who sought the services of the dispenser.

In addition to this financial business and the other business to which I have referred four bills are down to be read a first time. They will not be proceeded with until the legislative programme for the year is ready. As, however, they have been drafted, I thought it advisable to introduce them so as to give honourable members as much time as possible in which to study them. The first of these bills is the Summary Offences (Further Amendment) Ordinance of 1906, the object of which is to confine the Summary Offences (Amendment) Ordinance, which was passed last year, to the main purposes of that ordinance—to stop the solicitation by prostitutes in the streets. Hon. members may recollect that on the second reading of the Ordinance of last year an amendment was introduced which extended its scope by making police regulations which applied to public streets applicable also to private streets. This was explained by the Attorney General on the second reading of the bill, and the bill was ultimately passed *nemine contradicente*. I was afterwards informed by the senior unofficial member of the Council that the non-official members had not understood the amendment and were opposed to it. I need not say that the Government did not wish them to vote in favour of a bill which they did not understand, and in consequence I propose that the Ordinance should now be amended so as to restrict its scope to the main purpose of the bill as understood by Hon. members. The second bill before you is for amendments of the Magistrates' Ordinance. Mr. Gompertz, who was acting as police magistrate for some time, made out a list before he went home of suggestions with regard to the jurisdiction and power of magistrates. Advantage was taken last session of the amendment to the Women and Girls' Protection Ordinance to adopt one of these suggestions. The others are embodied in the present bill, the details of which will be explained by the Attorney General when it is read a second time. With regard to the Lunatic Asylums Bill, the Government has been advised that while there is authority at common law for the detention of lunatics, it will be safer to make statutory provision for such detention. This bill is intended to make that provision. The necessity for the Lunacy Bill arises from the fact that the powers of the Supreme Court in relation to the persons and estates of lunatics have hitherto been conferred by the Imperial Enactments Extension Ordinance of 1856, which extended the Lunacy Regulations Act of 1853 to this Colony that that Act has since been superseded in the United Kingdom by the Lunacy Act of 1890. That supersession does not involve *ipso facto* the supersession of the earlier by the later Act in the legislature of the Colony and the Chief Justice has advised that the Colonial should be brought into line with the Imperial legislation by Ordinance.

FINANCIAL.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table Financial Minutes Nos. 1 to 6, and moved that they be referred to the Finance Committee.

The HON. COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

PAPERS.

The HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table the report on the Widows and Orphans

Pension Fund for the year 1905, and the report on the teaching of Hygiene in the schools of Hongkong.

SUMMONING OF CHINESE ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL moved the following resolution:—

Whereas by section 5 of "The Summoning of Chinese Ordinance, 1899" (No. 12 of 1899), it was enacted that the said Ordinance should only continue in operation for the period of two years from the coming into operation of the said Ordinance and for such further period or periods as might, from time to time, be determined by Resolution of the Legislative Council, and whereas such operation has been continued by Resolution of this Council until the 30th day of March, 1906, inclusive: it is hereby resolved by this Council that "The Summoning of Chinese Ordinance, 1899," shall be further continued in operation for the further period of two years from the 31st day of March, 1906, inclusive.

He said:—After the explanation which your Excellency has tendered to the Council of the necessity for this resolution continuing this Ordinance, I need not occupy the time of the Council with any remarks. I will satisfy myself by moving the resolution I have read to the Council.

The HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was carried.

QUESTIONS.

The Hon. Mr. GERSHOM STEWART asked the following question—Will the Government take into consideration the advisability of approaching the Proprietors of the "City Hall" with a view to acquiring the "Building" in order that it may be altered to meet the necessity of the growing community?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said—The answer to the question put by the hon. member is "Yes." (Applause.)

The Hon. Mr. H. E. POLLOCK asked the following question—Will the Government state what steps are being taken to educate the Chinese tenants of houses in the principles of sanitation and ventilation which are applicable to the houses in which they live?

For what purpose was Robinson Road, Kowloon, opened up and on what date? When is it anticipated that the work will be completed and the road restored to its proper state?

Will the Government state what steps they have taken, and what further steps they intend to take and when, in connection with the installation of a system of fire-alarms? Will the Government also state what is the estimated cost of such installation?

Will the Government state what progress has been made with the works for the extension of water storage at Tytam and at Tytam Tuk and at Kowloon? Will the Government also state when these respective works are likely to be completed?

When is it anticipated that—(a) the New Post Office, (b) the New Law Courts, will be completed?

Is it the intention of the Government to make a road from the top Tram Station to Plantation Road? If so, when? What is the estimated cost of such road?

Will the Government procure and lay before the Council an estimate of the cost of prolonging Kennedy Road in a south-easterly direction from the point of its junction with the Wanchai Gap Road so that it may lead down to the Race Course at the back of the Mahommedan Cemetery?

Will the Government procure and lay upon the table an estimate of the cost of continuing Harlech Road round the north side of Victoria Peak—(a) back to Victoria Gap, (b) to Barker Road.

The Hon. Mr. GERSHOM STEWART—I beg to ask the question standing in my name.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said—In reply to question No. 1, no steps are being taken to educate the Chinese tenants of houses, but instruction in Hygiene has been introduced into the curriculum of most Government and Grant-in-Aid Schools in the Colony, with the results in the first year that are set forth in the paper laid on the table this afternoon.

In reply to question No. 3.—Since the 12th of July, 1904, when a similar question was asked by the Honourable member for the Chamber of Commerce on behalf of the Honour-

able member for the Justices of the Peace, Mr. Wodehouse, Assistant Superintendent of Police, whilst on leave in 1905 has made inquiries in London as to the system of fire alarms in use by the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, and reported that the system was not considered to be entirely satisfactory. Reference was then made to Singapore to learn how the "Gamewell System" reported to be in operation there was working. The reply after some delay was that there was no fire alarm system of any kind in Singapore. It is proposed to instruct Mr. E. R. Hallifax, Assistant Superintendent of Police, who is going on leave this spring to make full inquiries into the system in vogue in Great Britain and Ireland but until his report is received no estimate of the cost can be framed. The answers to the other questions will be given by the Hon. Director of Public Works.

The HON. DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, replying to question No. 2, said—The question is understood to refer to a trench recently opened from Middle Road northwards for a distance of about 170 yards. It is for the purpose of raising a water main consequent upon the level of the road having been raised. It was not possible to carry out this work simultaneously with the construction of storm water drains and sewers recently undertaken. The opening was begun on the February 8th and it is anticipated that the work will be completed and the road restored to its proper state by the 3rd March.

In reply to question No. 4.—Tytam Tuk Scheme—First Section.—The dam, which will be about 90 feet in height above ground level, has been constructed for fully half its height. The new road is far advanced, about 3/4 mile of main has been laid and erection of the pumping engines is about to be begun. It is anticipated that the whole of the works will be completed by the end of this year and that the dam will be completed in time to enable the reservoir to be filled during the coming wet season. Tytam Tuk Scheme—Second Section.—Surveys in connection with the preparation of working drawings are proceeding. Kowloon Water Works—Gravitation Scheme.—The dam, which will be about 100 feet in height above ground level, has been constructed for half its height. The main from the storage reservoir to the service reservoir is nearly completed and will shortly be utilized for conveying the water from several perennial streams, thus materially increasing the present supply. The filter beds and catchwater are in progress. It is anticipated that the whole of the works will be completed by the middle of next year, but will be so far advanced as to afford a sufficient supply for present requirements by next dry season.

In reply to question No. 5.—It is anticipated that both buildings will be completed by the end of 1909.

In reply to question No. 6.—By arrangement with the owners of the Peak Hotel, a portion of the road referred to, where it affects their property, is to be made new. When this arrangement has been fulfilled, the Government will complete the road. The estimated cost of doing this is \$8,300.

With regard to question No. 7, the question of improved communications in the locality referred to is at present receiving the attention of Government and the suggestion of the Hon. member will be considered.

In reply to question No. 8, I have to state that the cost is roughly estimated at from \$25,000 to \$30,000. As there is no prospect of funds being available in the near future to carry out this work, which is not of great public importance, it is not considered advisable at present to incur the expense of making the surveys preliminary to forming a detailed estimate.

The HON. Mr. POLLOCK—With reference to the answer of the Hon. Director of Public Works to the last question, might I ask whether this estimate includes taking the road to Victoria Gap?

The HON. DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS—Assuming the hon. member refers to only one of these alternatives being adopted the estimate will not be affected by the change.

SUMMARY OFFENCES AMENDMENT ORDINANCE.
The ATTORNEY GENERAL moved the first reading of a Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend the Summary Offences' (Amendment) Ordinance, 1905.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

MAGISTRATES' ORDINANCE AMENDMENT.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL moved the first reading of a Bill entitled An Ordinance further to amend the Magistrates Ordinance, 1890.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

ESTABLISHMENT OF LUNATIC ASYLUMS.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL moved the first reading of a Bill entitled An Ordinance to provide for the establishment of Lunatic Asylums, and to provide for the custody and care therein of persons of unsound mind.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

JURISDICTION OF SUPREME COURT.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL moved the first reading of a Bill entitled An Ordinance relating to the Jurisdiction of Supreme Court with respect to the care and commitment of the custody of the persons and estates of lunatics.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to. The Council then adjourned.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Finance Committee was then held—the Colonial Secretary presiding.

The following votes were approved:—

THE ROYAL VISIT.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$8,000 to meet the expenses incurred by the Treasurer of the Reception Committee and for illuminating the public buildings in connection with the visit to this Colony of H.R.H. Prince Arthur of Connaught.

MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of six hundred and eighty-one dollars and sixty cents (\$681.60) in aid of the vote Miscellaneous Services, Telegraph Service—Contribution in connection with Signalling Vessels and Messages to Observatory.

RIFLE RANGE AT THE PEAK.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of five thousand two hundred and fifty dollars (\$5,250) in aid of the vote, Public Works Extraordinary, Rifle Range at the Peak.

PUBLIC WORKS EXTRAORDINARY.

The Governor recommended the Council to revoke a sum of sixty-five thousand two hundred and one dollars and fourteen cents (\$65,201.14) the vote—Public Works Extraordinary, for the following items:—

Bacteriological Institute	\$2,844.94
Government Civil Hospital—Extension of Staff Quarters	3,000.00
Gunpowder Depot, Green Island	14,389.56
Harbour Office	6,926.53
Post Office, Shanghai	15,000.00
School, Yau-mai	1,382.00
Tai Po, Quarters for Officers	5,086.00
Volunteer Headquarters (Contribution)	24.56
Miscellaneous Drainage Works	326.85
Kowloon Roads	5,600.00
Green Island Light Improvement	88.92
Kowloon-Canton Railway—Survey and Preliminary work	10,532.68

\$65,201.14

Bacteriological Institute	1,920.00
Gunpowder Depot, Green Island	3,000.00
Green Island Light Improvement	1,800.00
Compensation to Lessees of Quarries D. 16 and D. 17, Lyemun	2,000.00

\$6,020.00

The Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—I should like to ask a few questions. The first is, When is the Gunpowder Depot at Green Island to be completed?

The Hon. DIRECTOR of PUBLIC WORKS—It is completed now, and occupied.

The Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—What about the Harbour Office?

The Hon. DIRECTOR of PUBLIC WORKS—The Harbour Office will be finished in a few months.

JUDICIAL AND LEGAL.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of three thousand and forty dollars

(\$3,040) in aid of the vote Judicial and Legal Departments for the following items:—

Magistracy, New Territories, Other Charges, Furnishing of the New Tai Po Quarters	\$1,520
Land Registry Office, New Territories, Other Charges, Furnishing of the New Tai Po Quarters	1,520

Total \$3,040

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of sixty dollars (\$60) in aid of the vote, Medical Department—Other Charges, B. —Hospitals and Asylums, New Territory, Rent of Temporary Dispensary at Tai Po.

JURY LIST FOR 1906.

When the Council resumed, the jury list for 1906 was considered in private.

ADJOURNMENT.

The Council adjourned *sine die*.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on February 20th at the Board Room. The Hon. Dr. F. Clark (president) presided, and there were also present:—Hon. Mr. W. Chatham, Dr. W. W. Pearce, M.O.H., Dr. Macfarlane, Lieut. Col. Josling, Mr. E. A. Hewett, Hon. Mr. A. W. Brewin, Mr. Fung Wa-chun, Mr. Lau Chupak, Mr. A. Shelton Hooper, Mr. H. Humphreys, and Mr. G. A. Woodcock (secretary).

A COSTLY ALTERATION.

Correspondence was submitted relative to certain alterations required by the Board to be made to a block of houses at Nos. 1 to 13 Un Shing Lane. Mr. E. M. Hazeland, architect, wrote pointing out that the cost of fulfilling the requirements would be more than a year's rent for the property. The houses would have to be pulled down or substantial structural alterations made in five years from 1905 in order to comply with the provisions of the Public Health and Building Ordinance as to external air. In the circumstances he asked the Board to allow the notices to stand over until the structural alterations required were put in hand.

The M. O. H. recorded—The same argument may apply to all those houses permitted to remain in the present condition as regards external air for five years. It is for the Board to consider whether this concession can be granted or not. I cannot say that any appreciable harm will result to the tenants from the concession.

Mr. Shelton Hooper As the M.O.H. says that no appreciable harm will result to the tenants from the concession asked for, I think it should be granted.

Mr. Hewett—I am in favour of the law being enforced, but would like to have the matter discussed.

The Hon. Registrar General—I recommend that no action be taken.

On the understanding that the condition of affairs be remedied at the end of five years, Mr. HEWETT moved, and Mr. SHELTON HOOPER seconded, that the concession with regard to windows be granted.

A COMPROMISE.

Application was received for a modification of the requirements of section 18 of the Public Health and Building Ordinance, 1903, in respect of No. 7, Wa Lane.

The Medical Officer of Health wrote—In view of the fact that it is advisable to obtain in the future a scavenging lane at the rear of Nos. 1 to 6, I think the owner of No. 7 might be asked to hand over to Government free of charge when required a sufficient portion of his yard to enable a six foot lane to be run through the whole block, and that he be now allowed to count such space towards the area required for his yard.

Mr. Shelton Hooper—I fail to see why, if the owner hands over to the Government a part of his land for a scavenging lane, he should not be compensated for so doing, as provided by section 180.

The Captain Superintendent of Police—I agree with M. O. H.

The PRESIDENT said it was not a question for that Board to consider whether the land was paid for or not.

Mr. SHELTON HOOPER said they should consider the question from a sanitary point of view and not grant a concession from monetary considerations.

The PRESIDENT thought the condition was necessary.

Mr. HEWETT asserted it was reasonable that in that case they should effect a compromise.

A resolution by the President that the Governor in Executive Council be recommended to grant the concession on condition that the ground be surrendered when required was carried.

Respecting an application for permission to use the kitchen of a house in Ping On Lane for the preparation of food,

The M.O.H. minuted—The kitchens are somewhat damp, but this is probably due partly to the newness of the walls. I do not think that there will be any harm in giving the permit, especially as the houses have been built on the understanding that the permit would be granted.

Mr. Humphreys—What is a kitchen for except the preparation of food?

The Captain Superintendent of Police—Is the M.O.H.'s last statement correct?

The M.O.H.—My minute is correct. The plans were acknowledged before the Board were asked to approve of the kitchens.

The application was granted.

This was all the business of importance.

RAT RETURN.

The total number of rats caught by the Board's officials during the week ended February 17 was 422, of which 23 were found to be plague infected.

MORTALITY STATISTICS.

The mortality statistics for the week ended January 23 showed that the death rate for the whole Colony British and Foreign population was 34.9 per 1,000, as compared with 10.3 for the same week of last year. The death rate for the whole Colony, excluding the Army and Navy, was 16.2.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE HOUSING QUESTION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—I read with much interest the lengthy contribution on this subject which appeared in your paper some short time back, and must congratulate the writer on the exhaustive manner in which he has dealt with it. At the same time I venture to think there are even yet a few points which have been missed.

In the first place nothing is said of former efforts. It is now about eight years since a sudden clearance was made in the immediate centre of the town. Cochrane Street, Graham Street, Peel Street, Square Street and Gage Street were then all gutted, so to speak, without any option as to extension or further extension of time. Any obstacle or impending difficulty was at once realised, promptly handled, and as quickly overcome—by firmness. Those of us who have lived amongst the natives here for any length of time know only too well that Oriental, and especially Celestial, procrastination and prevarication are to be met only in one way, by quick decision and firmness. Strict justice firmly dispensed proves the Chinaman to be the easiest of all Orientals to govern. Treat him otherwise and he will wear out the patience of a Job. In that very able book "Chinese Characteristics," wonderful delineation of character and temperament is given by the author, who had lived amongst them a lifetime; and he lays great stress on the treatment of their weaknesses—procrastination and prevarication.

As regards the neighbourhood which lies between Queen's Road West, and Blake Gardens close to the Tung Wah Hospital, considering the serious risk which is run, there should not be any time lost in effecting a complete clearance of at least all the native brothels which have been permitted to infest the locality, in unfair defiance of the precedent of eight years ago.

—Yours truly,

SPECTATOR.

ODD VOLUMES' SOCIETY.

HON. MR. A. W. BREWIN ON "FUNGSHUI."

In the City Hall on Feb. 30th before members of the Odd Volumes Society, the Hon. Mr. A. W. Brewin, Registrar General, delivered an interesting and instructive lecture on "Fungshui."

Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., who presided, introduced the speaker.

In the course of his remarks the lecturer said it would be as well at the outset to explain to his hearers that he was not going to give them the result of deep research, but simply notes of what he had learnt about Fungshui in casual conversation or in the course of his work. Fungshui meant literally "Wind Water," and had been defined by a learned authority as "a quasi-scientific system supposed to teach men where and how to build graves, temples and dwellings, in order that the dead, the gods and the living might be located exclusively, or as far as possible under the auspicious influences of nature." The Chinese believe that certain situations and surroundings brought good luck and well-being to the inhabitants, such good luck coming from the earth. Fungshui was the science which taught the Chinese where and how to build their houses and temples, and how and where to bury their dead; therefore, it was not a religion. It was a science, but differed from the sciences his hearers were familiar with in that it dealt not only with the material world, but with the world of spirits. They often heard the Chinese described as materialistic, and certainly natives of China had materialised their views of the future life, and lived much more really, in the spiritual world than Europeans did; there did not seem any fixed barrier between the living and the dead, the welfare of each being affected by the actions of the other. If Fungshui confined itself merely to tracing out the influences of nature—of water, hills and wood on the bodily and spiritual health of the living and the dead, the worst that could happen to believers would be to be reduced to a state of hypochondria; but its professors claim that not only is health affected by the situation of a house or a father's grave, but also material position, wealth and advancement, and the rules of Fungshui could not be disregarded without interfering with other people. The Fungshui professors were deserving of a little attention. There were no colleges to train students or to grant degrees; each student qualified by attaching himself as an apprentice to a professor in practice, but even an apprenticeship was not indispensable, as anyone desiring to do so could set up with or without practice. The speaker could not tell the main principles of Fungshui, although he had endeavoured to find out. Dragons and tigers, especially dragons, played a large part in it. The ridges of the hills were all parts of dragons, and from such dragons emanated favourable influences which affected houses or graves in their neighbourhood. Mr. Brewin then discoursed on the rules of Fungshui, telling stories by way of illustration. He said if his hearers thought it over they would find there were professionals in Europe corresponding very closely to the Fungshui man, and they might take it that all over the world, including China, all but a few cranks believed in him. In old days in Hongkong, coffins used to be stored as they are in Chinese cities now, as at Canton for instance, in the city of the dead outside the north gate. The Tungwah Hospital had a mortuary, and coffins remained there for years, but that was in the bad old days, and a vigilant Sanitary Department now prevented the infringement of the rules of ancestor worship. The attitude assumed by the Colonial Government towards Fungshui had been much the same as that taken up by the Government of China; neither Government recognised it except where there was a likelihood of a breach of the peace. Fungshui had naturally come more into prominence since we took over the administration of the New Territory, where the Registrar General and Assistant Superintendent of Police had cases occasionally submitted to them for arbitration. The belief of the Chinese country folk in Fungshui was so deep rooted and sincere that it did not seem to help

matters forward in the least to tell them that neither he (the speaker) nor the Government believed in it, so he now told his friends from the New Territory what was quite as true, and must seem more reasonable to them, that we had a Fungshui of our own, and that it was unlikely, as matters stood at present, that they would be able to persuade us to follow their rules instead of ours. The Public Works and Sanitary Departments attended to our Fungshui, and our rules were to be found principally in the Public Health and Building Ordinance. The lecturer then described how scenery near Hongkong was affected by Fungshui, and how the city of Victoria was favourably situated from a Fungshui point of view. He said the projected railway from Kowloon to Canton naturally turned one's thoughts to Fungshui. When the telegraph line was first laid between these two cities, Fungshui professors prophesied terrible calamities, and there was a good deal of opposition. This seemed very natural when we remembered that the line was bringing Kowloon with its nine dragons in close connection with Canton or the city of sheep. The spread of knowledge soon conquered Fungshui, which was simply an attempt to explain events in nature by natural causes, and the only relic of it to be found in a century or so would be in the shape of a grave or some quaint funeral ceremony (applause).

A hearty vote of thanks was awarded the lecturer at the close.

INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS AND SHIPBUILDERS.

The annual general meeting of the members of the Institution of Engineers and Shipbuilders, of Hongkong was held on February 19th in the rooms of the Institution, Des Vœux Road. Mr. H. T. Richardson, in the absence of Mr. N. Mumford, presided over a large and representative attendance, and was supported by Mr. J. Lambert, vice-president, and Messrs. E. O. Murphy, W. A. Crake, E. C. Wilks, J. W. Anderson, J. D. Morrison, members of the committee; T. W. Robertson, hon. treasurer, and D. J. Lennox, secretary and manager.

The notice convening the meeting and the minutes of the last annual meeting were read, after which the annual report of the committee of management and the statement of accounts for the past year were presented. The report stated that the membership was now made up as follows:—Ordinary members, 183; associate, 30; visiting A, 61; visiting B, 16; honorary, 1—total, 291.

The loss by death during the past year of Messrs. A. Campbell, J. Kirkwood, J. McLachlan, F. J. Price, and H. W. Soppet was recorded with regret. Twenty-three members had resigned from the Institution, and fifty-three candidates had been admitted during the year, while sixty members through long absence from the Colony, and their whereabouts not being known, were struck off the regular list. The circulating library formed at the end of 1904 was well patronised by several members. The response made to the circulars inviting the members to write essays on the "Management of Compound and Triple Expansion Engines and Boilers," for which a gold and a silver medal were offered as first and second prizes, had been disappointing. Another competition for these prizes would be organized, about which circulars would be issued in due course. The British Engineering Standards Committee, through the courtesy of the Hon. the Colonial Secretary, presented to the Institution, to be placed in the library, a set of its valuable publications. The lease of the rooms for a further period of three years was renewed in July.

The statement of accounts showed that the financial position of the Institution had improved during the period over which the statement dealt. Although an increase on nearly all the items of expenditure had taken place, compared with those of the preceding year, there was at the credit of profit and loss account a balance of \$659.47, to be transferred to the reserve account. This result is due, as was stated by the chairman and endorsed by the hon. treasurer and members of the committee, in a great measure to the

energy and care of the secretary and manager and was considered eminently satisfactory.

Mr. W. T. Richardson, R. N. R., was elected, president for the ensuing year, Mr. J. Lambert, R. N. R., and Mr. E. O. Murphy vice-presidents, and Mr. V. Watson hon. treasurer. As a result of the ballot the following were elected members of the committee of management: Messrs. W. A. Crake, W. Ramsay, J. F. Miller, E. C. Wilks, W. C. Jack, T. W. Robertson, A. Ritchie, J. D. Morrison, T. Skinner, J. D. Logan, C. F. Focken, and J. McCubbin.

A lengthy discussion took place regarding the difficulty European deck and engineer officers had in getting off at night to their ships at West Point. Arrangements had been made twelve months ago to overcome the difficulty, but they had apparently been discontinued, and the old order of things again prevailed. It was resolved that the Institution should petition those in authority to devise some system, by means of which easy access at night from the shore at West Point to the shipping in the vicinity could be obtained. The only means at present, it was stated, of getting on board at night a vessel lying at the west end of the harbour was by hiring a sampan at Blake Pier.

The usual vote of thanks to the chairman and the outgoing office-bearers for their services brought the meeting to a close.—[Contributed.]

HONGKONG CHURCH MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of the Hongkong Church Missionary Association, held in St. Paul's College on Feb. 19th, was well attended. The Hon. Captain L. Barnes-Lawrence, R. N. presided. There were also present—Rev. F. T. Johnson, Rev. G. Searle (Chaplain to the Forces), Rev. A. D. Stewart, Rev. P. Jenkins, Messrs. Dyer Ball, P. J. Laird, G. E. Woodward, E. C. Lewis Mrs. Barnes-Lawrence, Mrs. Woodward, Mrs. Miller, Mrs. Hipwell, Mrs. Genaba, Misses Johnstone, Carden, Houlder, Skipton, Hawker, Pitts, Stewart and others.

The secretary, the Rev. F. T. Johnson, having read the minutes of the previous meeting, the financial statement was submitted by the treasurer, Mr. G. E. Woodward, who pointed out that the funds for the support of the catechists in the New Territory had decreased, and that the general funds showed a falling off in the amount of subscriptions, the last year being closed with a balance of \$24 as compared with the previous year.

On the motion of the Rev. F. T. Johnson, the committee was re-elected.

The Chairman then addressed the meeting. He read the resolution passed at the inauguration of the society, and remarked that it was befitting that on that, the seventh birthday of their association, they should be reminded of that baptismal pledge as it were, to spread missionary work, and stimulate interest in the work. Alluding to the criticism directed at missionary work, he said they could point to the fact that those churches imbued with the missionary spirit were the most vigorous, and they could also point to the fact that missionaries had been pioneers of civilisation throughout the world. They had spread knowledge and had introduced the benefits of medical science, and they had shown that it was possible for cultured men and women to reside in heathen lands for other than money-making purposes. Behind all that argument they must never forget that if they were to be Christians in more than name they must obey the commands of Jesus Christ on the subject of evangelisation. No matter what failures they experienced, they must realise the bounden duty to hasten the time when the darkness of heathen superstition would be dispelled by the glorious light of the gospel. Personally he had had many opportunities of seeing the result of missionary work in all parts of the globe and had been privileged to know the inner lives of the missionaries, and he only wished that those who carped at missionary work had had the same opportunities. It could not be asserted that all missionary work was conducted on ideal lines, or that mistakes were not made. They could not expect anything else from human beings; but much of the diverse criticism of Christianity was founded on hearsay evidence that would

not bear sifting. For instance, some fifteen years ago, when he was in command of H.M.S. *Swift*, he was sent to Hankow to assist in quelling the missionary riots raging in the valley of the Yangtze. A celebrated globe-trotter who had spent one day in Hankow wrote to the *Times* describing the missionary work in that place as utterly useless, that the missionaries were living in the lap of luxury and using expressions on which he need not dilate. But when he came to the place and made investigations he saw the devoted lives led by the missionaries and realised the tremendous difficulties under which they worked, such as language, climate, and the difference between the Eastern and the Western minds. He urged his hearers to use their utmost endeavours to forward the objects for which the Association had been formed.

Miss Eyre followed with an address on missionary work. At the outset she referred to the attacks made on missionaries. They did not need to defend missionaries as missionaries, but themselves they might. Missionaries were perhaps more liable to make mistakes than other people because of the strain that was constantly put upon them. They took their stand on the command of the Lord Jesus Christ—"Go ye therefore into all the world to preach the gospel to every creature." It was useless to argue, because those who argued had not the same standpoint as they had, and when she heard the usual claptrap about missionaries she felt the truth of St. Paul's words when he said "The natural man understandeth not the things of the Spirit of God; they are foolishness to him, neither can he understand them because they are spiritually discerned." Those who talked against missionaries were those who were not on the same platform. If they were to judge of the things of the kingdom of Christ, they must judge according to the teaching of the Holy Spirit. The speaker then dealt with the work among the Chinese women and girls under three heads—educational, church work and evangelistic work.

The Rev. W. E. Hipwell discoursed on missionary work in Hongkong and neighbourhood as conducted by the three agencies—the Church Missionary Association, the C.M.S. and the native church. He spoke warmly of the zeal shown by the native Christian organisations and commended the objects of the Association to the sympathy of all present.

After votes of thanks had been accorded, the meeting closed with the benediction.

THE S. S. "HSIN-KONG."

Messrs. S. C. Farnham, Boyd & Co., Ltd., Shanghai, have completed at their Pootung Works the steel screw steamer *Hsin-kong*, built for the China Merchants' Steam Navigation Co. to the design and under the supervision of Mr. T. Weir, the Company's marine superintendent.

The hull is of steel, designed for the China coast trade, and is of the following dimensions:—

Length over all	230-0
Breadth moulded	40-0
Height of Bridge Deck	7-3
Main to Lower Deck	7-0
Bridge (length)	88-0
Length between Perpendiculars	270-0
Depth moulded to Main Deck	21-6
Height of Shade Deck	7-0
Top Gallant Forecastle (length)	38-0
Poop Deck (length)	42-0

The vessel is divided into seven watertight compartments, comprising the machinery space, which is amidships, three cargo holds, two water-ballast tanks which are also arranged to carry cargo, and fore and aft peaks. The whole of the tween decks, before and abaft the machinery, which extends the full width of the ship, is available for cargo, having four hatches with cargo stages in hold, eight cargo ports, and every facility for rapid handling of cargo. The main and lower decks are of steel throughout. The poop, bridge and forecastle decks are sheathed with teak and the shade deck over the bridge with Oregon pine having teak covering boards enclosed by iron railing. A bulwark 3 ft. high is carried up between top-gallant forecastle and bridge and between poop and bridge, in which are fitted eight cargo gangways. On the main deck three steam

whipping winches and one horizontal winch, by Messrs. Clarke, Chapman & Co., Ltd., are arranged alongside the four hatches, the latter is fitted for manœuvring ship to wharves.

A powerful steam windlass and capstan combined, by same makers, is fitted on the top-gallant forecastle for working Hall's patent stockless anchors and speedy manœuvring of vessel, with appliances for rapid mooring. The forecastle is fitted up for crew and firemen and the lower forecastle for petty officers and stores.

The accommodation, on the bridge, is arranged for forty 2nd class Chinese passengers, two berths in each room, Chief comprador's room, two galleys, scullery and water closets. The poop has four 2nd class Chinese passengers' rooms and forty-four open berths for 3rd class Chinese passengers.

Accommodation for 1st class passengers is fitted on the bridge deck, consisting of saloon, which is tastefully panelled in cedar pine with hardwood pilasters and painted white and gold, three state rooms, pantry, galley, scullery, store-room, bath and water closet; also rooms for chief mate, chief engineer forward, and for 2nd mate, 2nd and 3rd engineers, mess room, bath and water closet, steward, steward's store and boys' aft. On shade deck the captain's room and wheel-house are fitted with four life-boats. The dinghy and cutter are housed on the poop. A set of steam steering gear by Messrs. Caldwell & Co., Ltd., is fitted in the engine room and operated from the wheel-house and flying bridge, and screw steering gear by John Hastie & Co., Ltd., is fitted aft on the poop.

There is a complete installation of electric light throughout the vessel on the double wire return system, consisting of one hundred and sixty-two lights, including mast head, side lights and four cargo clusters. The dynamo and engine, by Messrs. Clarke, Chapman & Co., Ltd., is fitted in the engine room.

The deck fittings and equipment are most complete and include water service, which can be used in case of fire, steam heating ventilators, skylights, sidelights, accommodation ladders, etc.

The propelling machinery consists of one set of triple expansion, surface condensing, direct acting engines, having cylinders 19½ inches, 31½ inches and 52 inches diameter, by 36 inches stroke, and are designed for a working pressure of 160 lbs. per square inch; steam being supplied by two large cylindrical return tube steel boilers, 14ft. diameter by 10ft. 6in. long, designed for a working pressure of 160 lbs. per square inch, and tested to 320 lbs. per square inch. The main engines, built by Messrs. S. C. Farnham, Boyd & Co., Ltd., embrace all the best features of modern design, including cast steel conical pistons expansion levers to each set of valve gear, "All round" steam reversing gear, easy means of access and overhauling and large bearing surfaces. The cylinders rest on mild steel turned columns back and front, with condenser supported at back, and arranged to suit the Messrs. G. & J. Weir, Ltd., dry air pump installation, which is the first fitted in the Far East, and possesses many advantages, not the least being the removal of all pumps from main engines and consequent absence of pump levers, etc.; in this case the pump is placed on top of centrifugal pump cylinder and driven by continuation of piston rod; immediately below the condenser are two vertical single cylinder steam pumps for drawing off condensed water and discharging to Weir's direct contact feed heater, which a pair of Weir's boiler feed pumps discharge to main boilers.

The centrifugal pump for circulating water through condensers is of Messrs. Drysdale & Co.'s make and driven direct by single cylinder vertical engine, a large steam ballast pump, also steam sanitary pump of Messrs. G. & J. Weir, Ltd., make being fitted in the engine room. The pumping arrangements are most complete and arranged for two separate pumps being available for every duty; to assist this idea being carried out, Messrs. G. & O. Weir, Ltd., supplied a separate "Stand-by" independent dry air pump driven direct by vertical steam engine. The main bilge pumps, two

in number, are placed horizontal on engine seat, and driven direct by main crank shaft with arrangement for overhauling one while the other is working. A Hooking patent distiller of 1,000 gallons capacity per 24 hours is fitted on an upper platform of the engine room, steam being supplied by donkey boiler, with filter and distilled water connection to storage tank. The main boilers, built by Messrs. S. C. Farnham, Boyd & Co., Ltd., are of large power for the speed of the ship and designed to British Board of Trade requirements for a working pressure of 160 lbs. per square inch. They possess all the latest improvements in boiler making, the shell plates being in one continuous length and end plates flanged by special machinery; they are fitted with the usual mountings and placed thwartship, with a large roomy stokehole at the after end. The donkey boiler, built by Messrs. Farnham, Boyd & Co., Ltd., is of the Cochran type, 13ft. 6in. high by 6ft. diameter, and is designed for a working pressure of 100 lbs. per square inch, and placed in a recess between engine room and stokehole. It is fitted with separate feed donkey and usual mountings to allow of steam being supplied to dynamo, winches, steering engine, windlass, heaters and all auxiliary pumps, etc. All other engine room fittings are most complete, and include a large stock of spare gear, outfit, Chadbourn's telegraph to bridge, oil tanks, etc. The vessel is schooner rigged, having two steel pole masts with a complete set of fore and aft sails and awnings; four ordinary cargo derricks and one heavy derrick capable of lifting four tons. She is built to the British corporation's highest class to meet the Hongkong Government Survey and British Board of Trade requirements.

The launching ceremony took place on the 10th inst.; but the vessel did not actually take to the water until afterwards, probably on the 12th.

FRENCH IMPRESSIONS OF HONGKONG.

It is always interesting to hear what other people think of us and our island home. An old resident of Indo-China on a visit to Hongkong, has confided his impressions to *L'Avenir du Tonkin*, which journal prints the following extract:—"What towns those of Hongkong-Victoria and Hongkong-Plo? Truly when one is French one is a little humiliated to speak of the apathy and little initiative in most of our compatriots in their Colonies when one has under his eyes the gigantic and marvellous works of the sons of Albion, the incredible progress of this the first port in the world and the tranquil and easy attitude of the two hundred thousand Chinese who inhabit the island.

What a pity that we have not thought of doing likewise in our Cochin-China with its Cape Saint Jacques, in our Tourane with its port, and in our Tonkin with its Bays of Along and Hongay. Our people discuss, talking much and enthusiastically—they consider all sorts of proposals—official missions arrive nearly every day—but nothing is ever actually accomplished, none of the mooted improvements is realised."

THE NAVAL DEFENCE OF INDO-CHINA.

According to *L'Avenir du Tonkin*, the naval defence of Indo-China, as arranged by the French authorities, is as under:—

One battleship, *Redoubtable*, carrying the flag of Rear-Admiral de Marolles.

Two first-class gunboats—*Styx* and *Acheron*.

Four first-class gunboats (non-armoured)—*Lion*, *Astic*, *Vipère* and *Comète*.

Four second-class gunboats—*Baïonnette*, *Caronade*, *Jacquin* and *Henry Rivière*.

One despatch boat—*Kersaint*.

The Colony will also possess two mobile defences, composed as follows:—

At Saigon—Two destroyers, *Expédition* and *Takou*; 12 torpedo boats of the first class; eight river torpedo boats, four submarines, *Lynx*, *Protée*, *Perle* and *Esturgeon*.

At Port Courbet—One destroyer, *Pistolet*, and six first-class torpedo boats.

SUPREME COURT.

Monday, February 19th.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE).

BREACHES OF BANKRUPTCY ORDINANCE.

The hearing of the case against Choi Chung-li, who was charged with committing a breach of the Bankruptcy Ordinance, was adjourned until next sessions.

In the case of U Pan, who was arraigned on a similar charge, the Attorney General announced that he did not intend to file an indictment, and the defendant was discharged.

RECEIVING STOLEN PROPERTY.

Shun Tim was charged with receiving stolen goods.

The Attorney General, Sir H. S. Berkeley, prosecuted, and accused was undefended. He pleaded not guilty and the following jurors were called—Messrs. P. H. F. Stone, C. G. S. Mackie, J. W. Boyes, S. I. Michael, I. Turner, F. R. Fox and T. J. Mullan.

The Attorney General stated that defendant had been committed for trial on a charge of armed robbery, but the evidence was not considered sufficient to warrant an indictment, and the charge was consequently reduced to receiving. The robbery took place at Shaukiwan West on January 19th.

Evidence was heard, in which it was stated that the prisoner pawned a jacket (part of the stolen goods), giving a fictitious name and address. When arrested the prisoner gave the names of two men, whom he said were concerned in the robbery, but he denied taking part in it himself.

The jury found the prisoner guilty, and his Lordship sentenced him to two years' imprisonment with hard labour.

RECEIVING STOLEN PROPERTY.

Wong Tui-kin was charged with being in possession of a pair of trousers on the 15th ultimo at Tokwawan, unlawfully knowing the same to have been stolen.

Sir H. S. Berkeley, Attorney General, instructed by Mr. F. B. L. Bowley, Crown Solicitor, prosecuted, and prisoner, who pleaded not guilty, was undefended.

The following composed the jury empanelled—R. Saxon (foreman), W. Goodfellow, L. F. Tegner, R. Unsworth, Ho Kam-tong, C. E. Herbst and W. G. McBride.

The Attorney General informed the jury that on the night of January 14th some nine men broke into a fish shop at Junk Bay. They were armed with choppers, seized the fishmonger and his family, bound them, and threatened the master if he did not disclose where his money was kept. On discovering this they departed and no trace of the money had since been found. The fishmonger and his sons were unable to identify the persons who committed the robbery, but on February 4th, from information given to the police, the prisoner was arrested, and said to have things in his possession which had been stolen on the night of the robbery.

When the evidence had been heard, his Lordship directed the jury to return a verdict of not guilty, the case against the defendant not being strong enough. They did so, and the accused was discharged.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

SEAMEN'S CLAIM.

Cheung Ting and Cheung Lee, able seamen, sued A. Turner, architect, of Alexandra Build, ings, to recover the sum of \$8 each due for services rendered as able seamen in sailing the *Mary and Joan* from Hongkong to Shatim and back.

Mr. R. F. C. Master (of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master) represented the defendant.

His Lordship informed the plaintiffs that \$5 had been paid into Court in each case and asked if they would accept the amount. Plaintiffs said they would not.

Cheung Ting, sworn, said he was a seaman. He claimed \$8 for eight days' wages at \$1 per

day. He worked on defendant's boat between Hongkong and Shatim, and a foreman in defendant's employ said that defendant was willing to give \$1 a day.

Cross-examined—He was engaged by a man named Cheung Wa on the 22nd ultimo. Witness left for Shatim on January 22nd, but did not get much wind until the 24th. On that day they sailed a long distance, but eventually the wind freshened and a gust broke their foremast. A launch took them in tow on the following day as far as Shatim. They returned to Hongkong on the morning of the 29th ultimo.

His Lordship—Let us have the other man in the box.

Cheung Lee was called and sworn.

His Lordship—Have you heard the evidence of the first witness?—Yes.

Do you agree with him in every particular?—Yes.

Cheung Wa said the plaintiffs were his fokis and the defendant asked him to engage them. Witness agreed to pay them \$1 a day, and they were eight days on the voyage.

Mr. Master said he could produce evidence from another vessel which started for Taipo on the evening of the 22nd, and arrived there on the following evening.

His Lordship said it was perfectly absurd to suppose that the plaintiffs started from Hongkong at mid-day on the 22nd and could not reach Shatim until the 26th ultimo.

Mr. Master said the defendant did not dispute his liability except as to amount. What they suggested was that the plaintiffs were lying in Shaukiwan and celebrating Chinese New Year.

His Lordship—Well, they had no business to be there.

Calling the plaintiffs before him, he told them through the interpreter that it was impossible for him to believe their story. They both told him that they went about a mile on the second day, while their No. 1 said they went about twenty. They had better take the \$5 apiece paid into Court and be happy.

A DISPUTED ACCOUNT.

The Yow Loong Hing Keesued Lo Chi-san to recover the sum of \$98.48 due on goods sold and delivered.

Mr. C. F. Dixon (of Mr. John Hastings' office) represented the defendant, who admitted owing \$47.08, but denied that the balance was due.

Cho Yut, master of the plaintiff firm, gave evidence in support of his claim and produced the books of the firm to prove same. He said he rendered an account of the amount owing for two years, but the defendant said he wanted separate accounts. These were subsequently furnished.

Chow Wai was the next witness. He said he was employed by the plaintiffs as a fok. In 1904 he supplied goods to the defendant.

His Lordship—Do you know whether they were paid for?—Something was paid on account.

Can you say they were not paid for?—Not in full.

How do you know?—Because I supplied defendant with a bill in the 5th moon.

Do you keep the books?—No; the accountant does.

Well, you don't know what has been paid. What have you got to do with it?—I took the bill to the defendant.

As the accountant of the firm was not present, His Lordship said he would hear the defence.

Mr. Dixon called Lo Che-san, who said he was indebted to the plaintiffs in the sum of \$47.08. He asked the plaintiff to furnish particulars for an account for \$69.48 sent him, and at the same time applied for a full amount of his indebtedness. He paid his accounts for the year before last.

His Lordship Did you ever receive an account for the year before last?—No.

Where are your books?—I have no books.

Can you read?—Yes.

Well, look at those books and produce your receipts. Where are your receipts for the year before last?—I told the plaintiffs I had lost all my receipts before the 6th moon.

His Lordship—Do you wish to go on?

Mr. Dixon—No. I have finished my examination.

His Lordship—There will be judgment and costs for the plaintiffs.

Tuesday, February 20th.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE).

THE TAIPO MURDER.

Chan Kam, Wong Sing and Ho Ah-wong were charged with the murder of Tsoi Ming-chang, alias Chan Beng-chan, at Taipo on the 2nd instant.

The Attorney General, Sir H. S. Berkeley, prosecuted. The first and third prisoners were represented by Mr. M. W. Slade, while Mr. H. G. Calthrop defended the second.

The three pleaded not guilty, and the following jurors were called—Messrs C. G. S. Mackie, A. R. Lowe, C. E. P. Herbst, H. M. Tiefenbacher, H. F. Campbell, E. S. Clark and S. I. Michael.

The Attorney General, in opening the case for the Crown, said the deceased was an Exotic Officer stationed at Taipo, and on the night of February 2nd or early on the morning of February 3rd met his death. On the evening of February 2nd there were in the house, including the deceased, a young boy and two chair coolies; one of the latter being Chan Kam. The two chair coolies went to Chan Beng-chan on February 1st and offered their services, their object from the commencement being robbery. About 6.30 or 7 o'clock the match in which the deceased lived was closed for the night, and the two chair coolies laid down to sleep in the front room, while the deceased Chan Beng-chan went into the inner room, afterwards returning to the front room to sleep. About midnight the boy was awakened by hearing his master call out, and on looking saw the two chair coolies struggling with him. The boy tried to beat the assailants off but failed, and finally the chair coolies called out "Come," with the result that five men rushed into the room. Chan Beng-chan was overpowered and tied up. The boy was also tied to the table. The house was ransacked and the gang departed with their booty. The boy managed to free himself and finding his master still and white, rushed to the Taipo police station. The officer in charge telephoned to all the blockhouses on the frontier with information of the outrage and then visited the house, where the deceased was found apparently dead. A post-mortem examination was held subsequently by Dr. Hunter, who gave it as his opinion that death was due to manual strangulation, finger marks being found on the throat. There were other bruises but no internal injuries. The news of the murder having been circulated by the prompt action of the boy, the police were on the look-out for the assailants, and at 3.30 a.m., about two and a half hours after the occurrence, an Indian sergeant on duty near the frontier saw four men approaching from Taipo. Stepping out from his ambush he succeeded in arresting two of them, but the other two bolted; one was captured, but the other crossed the frontier and escaped. When searched certain of the stolen property was found on the persons of each of the prisoners, and they were taken to the police station. The Attorney General laid down his reading of the law. Where a number of men set out to commit a felony, and a life was taken in the carrying out of that felony, it was murder, and all who participated in the original felony were guilty of murder, whether they actually took part in the murder or not.

Mr. Slade objected to the proposition as put.

The Attorney General, therefore, commenced to quote authority for his contention, after which evidence was heard.

After hearing the evidence, the jury found the three prisoners guilty, and his Lordship sentenced them to death.

The Chief Justice also commended the Indian constable who arrested the defendants on his smart capture of the culprits before they escaped across the frontier.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

MALICIOUS PROSECUTION.

Wong In-tung claimed the sum of \$500 damages from Lau Mun for an alleged malicious prosecution.

Mr. O. D. Thomson appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. F. P. Hett (of Messrs. Bruton, Hett and Goldring) represented the defendant.

Mr. Thomson stated that the question in the case was whether there was reasonable cause for the prosecution which had been taken; the defendant admitted instituting the charge, but alleged there was reasonable cause. The facts of the case were that the plaintiff, the defendant and two other men were partners in the Yu On firm of contractors. The plaintiff was the largest shareholder, having a \$500 share, while the other partners had \$100 shares. The plaintiff, as managing partner of the firm, entered into a contract with one, Lam Woo, to do some work for him in connection with torpedoes at Lyemun. The contract was a written one, and it was therein agreed that the plaintiff should pay Lam Woo \$3,000. The contract was duly signed and \$2,500 paid, the balance being paid on the following day. In the course of that day Lam Woo sent for the plaintiff and informed him that the War Authorities would not allow him to do the work contracted for, and suggested that the contract should be cancelled. This was eventually agreed to, and it was agreed that Lam Woo should retain \$100 to cover expenses, the other \$2,600 which had been paid to him being returned to the plaintiff. Defendant was informed of this, and the plaintiff returned him through one of the other partners the sum of \$1,250, the balance being deducted for expenses. The defendant at that time rather strongly objected to not getting the whole of the money, and suggested that no contract had been entered into between Lam Woo and the Yu On firm. Nothing was then done until November 19th, when the plaintiff was proceeded against at the Police Court and acquitted. On the facts stated Mr. Thomson submitted that there was an absence of reasonable and proper cause for the defendant to take proceedings. He was apprised of the contract with Lam Woo, and it was perfectly optional for him to ask Lam Woo about it, and whether the plaintiff's was a trumped-up story. The real reason the defendant took proceedings was to attempt to force the plaintiff to return the money which he thought was due to him; it was not a *bona fide* attempt on the part of the defendant to bring the plaintiff to justice.

After hearing the evidence of the plaintiff, which his Lordship considered very contradictory, he said he could not make out why the Police Magistrate did not keep him. A jury at home would at this stage say they had had enough of it.

Mr. Thomson—If your Lordship takes that view of the case, I don't see that there is any good in going on.

His Lordship—No; the plaintiff contradicts himself in every statement. There will be judgment and costs for the defendant.

Wednesday, February 21st.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

A STRANGE DISAPPEARANCE.

The Wo Shun Steamboat Co., Ltd., sued Leung Tim to recover \$380, money received by the defendant on behalf of the plaintiffs.

Mr. R. Harding (of Messrs. Evans, Harston and Harding) appeared for the plaintiffs, the defendant being unrepresented.

Defendant, on being called before the Court, said he was the compradore of the s.s. *Chan On*. On January 18th of this year he left Foochow for Hongkong, having in his possession over \$10,000.

His Lordship—Tell him if he owes the money he is only increasing costs by coming here to-day.

Defendant said the money was taken from him by somebody else.

His Lordship (to the interpreter)—Put him in the box and swear him.

Declared, defendant said he owed the amount claimed. He had fourteen packages of money belonging to the Steamboat Company, which he put in a box in his cabin on board the *Chan On*; the box had no lock. Next morning, when he went to get the money to hand over to the

Company he found that three packages, containing \$380, were missing. Of the \$10,000 he placed \$6,000 in his own safe.

His Lordship—Very well; there is \$6,390 represented. Where is the balance?

Defendant—I had three other packages placed underneath the table in the compradore's department.

His Lordship—How much money had you on board altogether?

Defendant—Over \$10,000.

His Lordship—Very well; tell us where it came from. Who were the consignees?

Defendant—Kwong Man-tai and Kwong Sun-tai.

His Lordship—How much are you missing altogether?

Defendant—Only \$380.

His Lordship—What became of the other packages you say were in the box which you lost the amount?

Defendant—I handed them over to the company.

His Lordship—I can see the man is not speaking the truth; he knows it too. Call up the plaintiff.

On the plaintiff being called, his Lordship asked—Do you know of anyone else losing money in this show?

Plaintiff—I know nothing about it.

His Lordship—How many others are saying so, or going to sue him?

Plaintiff—No one else.

His Lordship—If he took \$380, why shouldn't he take the whole lot. It is not my business, but the police might think about it. There will be judgment and costs for the plaintiff, with leave to issue immediate execution.

Thursday, February 22nd.

IN ADMIRALTY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR FRANCIS PIGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE).

SAM HING v. S.S. "PAUL BEAU."

The plaintiffs, coal merchants of 28 and 30, Pottinger Street, sued the s.s. *Paul Beau* to recover the sum of \$5,390.60 due for coal supplied on the credit of the said steamship.

Mr. M. W. Slade, instructed by Mr. C. D. Wilkinson (of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist), appeared for the plaintiffs, and Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., instructed by Mr. M. J. D. Stephens, represented the defendants.

In delivering his reserved judgment, his Lordship said that necessities in the shape of coal were supplied to the *Paul Beau*, a French steamer lying in this port. The order for coal was given to plaintiff by one, Kwok Yik-ting; he said the coal was for the ship, and no questions were asked as to who were her owners. Subsequently, the ship being within the jurisdiction of the court, proceedings *in rem* were instituted for necessities, the vessel being seized and bail given. The coal was ordered by Kwok Yik-ting as agent for the charterers, although the plaintiff did not know of this until some time afterwards. The bill was originally made out to the captain and owners of the steamer, but seemed subsequently to have been made out in the name of Messrs. Trevoix and Co., the lawful possession of the ship being in them, not in the owners. The contract in this case not having been made by the master, there was no question to which French law could apply. His Lordship then dealt with the questions of a maritime lien, the material man, and other points raised by counsel, and, in conclusion, said that as a master had a maritime lien for disbursements, the natural course for suppliers of necessities to adopt where there was a charter was that suggested in Williams and Bruce, page 197; to obtain from the master either an assignment of his right to bring an action of his disbursements *in rem*, or an equivalent undertaking guaranteeing that such action should be brought and carried on for the benefit of the material man, assuming that such assignment or guarantee were valid in law. Judgment would, therefore, be entered for the defendant with costs. On the counter claim for damages through being deprived of the ship's services when she was arrested, and through loss of interest upon the amount of bail, there would be judgment for the plaintiffs.

IN BANKRUPTCY.

APPLICATION FOR ADJUDICATION.

Re Hong Lok Hing Tai ex parte the debtors. Mr. H. Hursthouse (of Messrs. Denny and Bowley), who appeared for the debtors, applied for an adjudication order, and that the Official Receiver be appointed trustee. The first meeting of creditors had been held, and at that meeting the creditors decided to pass no resolution, and an affidavit to the effect had been filed.

A QUESTION OF PROCEDURE.

Re the Han Fuk Cheung firm ex parte the Hung Yuen Bank.

Mr. C. F. Dixon (of Mr. John Hastings' office) continued his application for payment of taxed costs of the San Yik Chuen firm. He said the application was made under section 33, sub-section 2 of the Bankruptcy Ordinance, and was previously adjourned in order that the Official Receiver might file a report as to the bankruptcy. Mr. Wakeman had done so, and opposed this application, his contention being that he (Mr. Dixon) instead of issuing the present proceedings should have at once made the firm bankrupt.

His Lordship—Who are the creditors who made them bankrupt?

Mr. Dixon—The Hung Yuen bank.

His Lordship—When was this action begun?

Mr. Dixon—On October 25th, and I attached the property on the same day. The Official Receiver says that instead of instituting my writ I should have taken bankruptcy proceedings.

Mr. Wakeman—That is so, my Lord; as the managing partner of the firm absconded from the Colony.

Mr. Dixon—The fact of the managing partner absconding from the Colony is not evidence that the firm had committed such an act of bankruptcy as would entitle me to file a bankruptcy petition against them.

His Lordship—That raises the question I referred to the other day under this statute.

Mr. Wakeman—I think that point is settled by section 6 of sub-section 1.

His Lordship—This is a case in which a partner has the management of the business?

Mr. Dixon—Yes, my Lord. And it was a partner who absconded from the Colony. I knew the managing partner had run away and that there was danger of the property being disposed of or attached by the other creditors if I did not issue a writ; therefore, I attached it.

His Lordship—What is your point? Is it that the absconding of the managing partner is not sufficient evidence of an act of bankruptcy?

Mr. Dixon—Yes, my Lord.

Mr. Wakeman—I submit that it is, my Lord, under section 6.

His Lordship—And you say it was in fact the act of bankruptcy in this case.

Mr. Wakeman—That is so, my Lord; and what Mr. Dixon should have done was to have filed a petition and got an *interim* receiving order.

His Lordship—Would that have done as well?

Mr. Wakeman—Yes, my Lord. I should have gone into possession immediately.

His Lordship—Well, I must consider the application. The case is adjourned.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

A DISPUTED BALANCE.

Della Huard sued Marion Jarrell to recover the sum of \$345, balance due for money lent.

Mr. R. F. C. Master (of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master) appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. E. J. Grist (of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) represented the defendant.

Mr. Master stated that the plaintiff lent the defendant a sum of money in Huntington, West Virginia, U.S.A. sometime last July. At that place the plaintiff and defendant met several times, and defendant eventually informed the plaintiff that she wished to go to her brother in Manila. The plaintiff promised to take her as far as Hongkong, and pay the rest of her passage and all incidental expenses connected with the journey. The defendant

did not go to Manila, but remained in Hong-kong. She had paid plaintiff on account a sum of \$400, and also signed an I.O.U. for a certain sum, part of which they were now claiming.

Mr. Grist said he had filed a special defence in the action. They had paid \$65 into court without admitting legal liability.

After hearing the evidence, his Lordship gave judgment for the defendant with costs, and ordered the money paid into court to be paid out.

CANTON.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT).

Feb. 16th.

CHINESE EDITORS REPRIMANDED.

Yesterday the Nam-Hoi and Poon-Yu Magistrates sent invitation cards to all the editors of the local press, to attend at a private meeting to be held at the Nam Hoi Magistracy. It is rumoured that they have received instructions from the Viceroy to reprimand them for their hostile attitude against the Government in connection with the recent troubles about the railway.

DR. BEATTIE'S ASSAILANTS.

Capt. Lan Kai-cheong sent a force of braves in charge of a petty officer Ho Tin-leong to Fa-Ti to search for the robbers who recently ransacked Dr. Beattie's house. Information having reached Ho that the gang was in hiding at Shek-Wai-Tong, he immediately went to the place indicated with twenty braves and surrounded the house. A fight ensued, during which guns and revolvers were freely used. Four of the gang were ultimately captured and are now at the military station awaiting trial.

Another gang entered last night a mission house close to Mr. Beattie's residence. After looking over the premises they left without taking anything away with them.

At about 11 o'clock last night a robber was caught at the French Consulate. He was in hiding under the roof. The Viceroy will no doubt give short shrift to these desperadoes, who are becoming more and more daring.

MR. LAI'S RELEASE.

I have just telegraphed to you that Lai Kwai-pui's release has been ordered by Imperial Edict. It is rumoured that the Viceroy used the following stratagem to bring this about without losing face. He got the ex-President of the Chamber of Commerce, a man called Tso, to petition to the Throne, saying that Lai regretted what he had done and praying that he be released and his rank and titles returned to him. The petition purported to represent the wish of the Chamber of Commerce, hence the issuing of the Imperial Edict.

Lai Kwai-pui will be released this afternoon and will receive a grand send-off from his prison. He will be received afterwards at the Chamber of Commerce with great ceremony.

February 17th.

LAI KWAI-PUY'S TRIUMPH.

Lai Kwai-pui was arrested on January 12th and was released yesterday (Feb. 16th). On the previous night, the Nam Hoi Magistrate and a deputy named Ting Nai-ching went to the place of his confinement and informed him that, in reply to a cable sent by Viceroy Shum on the 13th inst., an Imperial Edict was received ordering his release. Lai Kwai-pui calmly replied that, as it was late, it would be inconvenient for him to leave that night. The Nam Hoi replied that there was a chair ready outside. The prisoner objected that he was not prepared to go, as he had not yet written his statement. The embarrassed Nam Hoi and the deputy implored him to leave, and Lai had to telephone to the Provincial Judge for permission to remain. This being granted, the Nam Hoi and the deputy left. The next day at 2 p.m. the members of the Chamber of Commerce, the 72 guilds and an immense crowd of gentry and merchants went to meet him and escorted him as planned beforehand to the General Chamber of Commerce. He was cheered all the way and thousands of dollars worth of crackers were exploded en route.

SAVING FACE.

The Viceroy's petition for his prisoner's release was a cunningly worded document. It pointed out that Lai's constant exhortations from his prison to his friends to prosecute the

railway scheme was a sign of repentance. Although Lai had slandered the Government, and so deserved his punishment, his repentance and encouragement of the people to subscribe for railway shares entitled him to clemency, and as the people desired his release, he (the Viceroy) wished to free him. If he continued his present good behaviour, the Viceroy would memorialise for his restoration to rank. If he failed to raise the necessary capital (and "the money said to be actually subscribed has not been submitted to me for inspection"), or again incited the people to disobedience, he should be severely punished.

February 19th.

A GERMAN LOAN.

Some time ago Viceroy Shum cabled to the Board of Revenue in Peking requesting that permission be granted to him to borrow a certain sum of money (Tls. 10,000,000) from German merchants to carry out various public works in the Kwangtung Province. The Board of Revenue refused its sanction.

It appears that after sending their reply to Viceroy Shum a conference of the Minister of the Board of Revenue and the Chancellor of the Exchequer took place. They re-considered the matter, and the result was that a telegram was despatched to Viceroy Shum granting him permission to borrow five million taels from foreigners. But the Viceroy is requested to state from what revenue he intends to draw the money necessary to redeem the loan.

A JAPANESE ENTERPRISE STOPPED.

A Japanese merchant, Sugiyama, recently opened an insurance office in the Shun Tak district, proposing to insure crops against damage. The district magistrate, having reported the matter to the Viceroy, an official despatch was sent to the Japanese Consul in Hongkong, requesting him to order his subject to close the business. Shun Tak not being a treaty port. The Consul has complied with the Viceroy's request and has ordered Sugiyama to close his business.

IMPERIAL GIFTS.

The messenger sent by Viceroy Shum to carry new year greetings to the Throne has returned and has brought to the Viceroy various presents, including tablets written by the Imperial hand, a fur coat, and a silk robe.

Feb. 20th.

ANOTHER RAILWAY LOAN.

A Peking telegram received here states that Viceroy Chang Chih-tung has memorialized the Throne to raise further funds from British merchants (or Hongkong Government?) for the construction of the Canton-Hankow Railway. The former agreement entered into by him and the Government for the loan of £1,000,000 was very fairly drawn up, and the terms in that agreement were very satisfactory to both contracting parties.

NEW MILITARY COLLEGE.

The Governor's yamen is to be transformed into a large military college. It was formerly occupied by the head office of the police, who moved out a few days ago. The construction of the college has already commenced. It is estimated that the total cost will amount to about \$400,000.

FLOUR FROM SHANGHAI.

Viceroy Shum has received a petition from the Fan-Tung Co. in Shanghai (Chinese Flour Mill Co.) stating that they are exporting their flour to Kwangtung Province and requesting him to give instructions to the Customs authorities not to charge likin and Customs dues in accordance with the regulations of the Board of Commerce, which provides that necessities of life manufactured in China are free from duty. The Viceroy has issued instructions to the Customs and likin stations not to tax this flour.

MORE PIRACY.

A large junk plying between Fat-shan and Canton, carrying, amongst other valuable merchandise, 300 bales of fine Fat-shan hemp, was looted by pirates on the 17th inst. The pirates made good their escape and no arrest has yet been made.

THE OPIUM TAX.

The secretary of Viceroy Shum sent the following reply to H. B. M's Consul General, who had written about the increased tax on opium:—

"I have reported that on the 16th inst. the British Consul General here sent a despatch to Viceroy Shum requesting him to temporarily cease enforcing the new increase of the opium tax until the question was decided upon by the two Governments. The Viceroy, in reply, said that the tax on prepared opium was enforced in the Kwangtung Province since the 10th year of Kwang-Hsu. A Government bureau was then established collecting the tax but that in the 25th year of Kwang-Hsu it was farmed by the monopolist Wing On-tong. All your predecessors and your honourable Consul General did not protest. In the 28th year of Kwang Hsu, this monopoly was given to the Kwang Hing Company and instead of granting the privilege to this concern to tax prepared opium the government gave them the privilege to tax the crude opium imported to Kwangtung in order to enable the monopolist to collect the fullest amount of duty, as it would be difficult for the monopolist to obtain the full amount of the tax after same is imported to be turned into prepared opium. The above appeared to be a double taxation on crude opium. That was the first time we received a letter from your honourable Consul saying that you had received instructions from your respectable Minister that it was in contravention to the Chefoo Treaty and requested us to stop the tax. The present operation of the prepared opium tax is to issue licences to the shops that boil crude opium and sell it in its prepared condition. These shops have been requested to take out a licence, and pay a tax for the privileges or licence. Therefore, we are not collecting tax on crude opium, and in that case it does not concern the Chefoo Treaty in the slightest way. Not only has this tax been enforced in this province for a long time, but it has also been enforced in various other provinces. It is now very difficult to give instructions to stop it. You, honourable Consul-General, have been in Kwangtung for many years. Heretofore you have been known as just and equitable, and, therefore, I am sure you will overlook this matter. This is in reply to your despatch, and I beg to enquire after your health. This is my despatch.

VICEROY SHUM'S REASONABLENESS.

Viceroy Shum writes to the Tartar General and Literary Chancellor that the reported popular subscriptions to the railway funds are "all empty talk, and nothing substantial has been proved," and he is doubtful if all the capital required will be forthcoming, as no doubt much that has been promised will not be paid. But personally, so long as the capital is forthcoming, he does not care how. He is not in love with his own taxation scheme.

February 21st.

VICEROY RECOMMENDED FOR PROMOTION.

Viceroy Shum has received a telegram from Peking informing him that his name has been inscribed on the records of the Censorate, with a note to the effect that he has rendered good services to the State and deserves promotion. This list is presented to the Throne every three years by the Board of the Censors.

CANTONESE STUDENTS' STRIKE.

A letter received from Peking announces that all the Cantonese students there are on strike as a protest against the action taken by Viceroy Shum in connection with the railway affairs, and that they have requested the Inspector General of Colleges, Chang, to memorialize the Throne on their behalf and state their grievance.

A BIG SUBSCRIPTION.

The Chamber of Commerce has received a cablegram from Singapore stating that two very wealthy Chinese, surnamed Cheang and Wong, of the Keeling Islands, have subscribed for \$12,400,000 worth of shares between them. They would like to have official confirmation that the merchants alone will control the construction of the line before they remit the money to Canton.

KWANG-SI TROUBLES.

The Central Government has cabled to Viceroy Shum to send a large army to quell the rising in Kwang-si and to furnish a list of all the officials who have showed themselves incapable during the last campaign in Kwang-si, so that they may be cashiered.

ANIMAL DISEASES.

The damp weather has brought on epidemics amongst cattle and pigs, a great many having died recently. It is reported that the flesh of these diseased animals is being sold in the city. The police have received instruction to prevent the sale of such meat and to arrest the offenders.

LATE MAILS.

The foggy weather has been making Hongkong steamers late; they have been arriving between eleven and noon. The French mail was delivered here at about 12 o'clock yesterday.

THE SOY CHEE COTTON SPINNING CO., LTD.

The report for presentation to the shareholders at the eleventh ordinary meeting, to be held at the offices of Messrs. Arnhold, Karberg and Co., on March 6th contains the following information:—

The general manager submits a statement of accounts to December 31st, 1905.

The native cotton crop of last year has been a very satisfactory one and the whole of the production during the year under review has been sold at very remunerative prices.

The working of the year shows a balance at credit of profit and loss accounts of Tls. 206,824.19, including an amount of Tls. 22,050.78, carried forward from 1904. It is proposed by the directors to deal with the above balance as follows:—

	Tls.
To pay a dividend of Tls. 25.00 per share on 2,000 shares, absorbing	50,000.00
To write off for depreciation of machinery	66,146.39
To write off for depreciation of furniture	208.24
To write off for depreciation of buildings	13,061.64
To place 5 per cent. to legal reserve fund (in accordance with rule 24 of the articles of association)	10,341.21
To reduce the book value of the mill stores account by	10,397.66
To grant 10 per cent. to the manager as a bonus (in accordance with rule 24 of the articles of association)	20,682.42
To carry forward to 1906 account	35,986.63
Tls. 206,824.19	

CHINA FIRE INSURANCE CO., LTD.

The report for presentation to the shareholders at the thirty-seventh ordinary meeting on March 8th is as follows:—

The Directors have now the pleasure to submit their annual report and statement of the Company's accounts made up to December 31st last.

1904.—The balance at credit of working account as per last report was	\$260,374.35
Add premia since received	46,680.41
	\$307,054.76
Deduct claims paid	\$151,220.61
Deduct return premia, &c., &c.	24,385.86
	175,606.47

Balance of profit ... \$131,448.29

It is proposed to apportion this sum as follows:—

\$120,000 to shareholders as dividend for the year, at the rate of \$6 per share, and the balance of \$11,448.29 to credit of extra reserve fund, which will then stand at \$229,488.02.

1905.—The balance at credit of working account at the close of this year was \$344,098.98 which is a satisfactory increase compared with the previous report.

DIRECTORS.

Hon. Mr. R. Shewan and Mr. N. A. Siebs retire by rotation, and, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITORS.

Messrs. W. Hutton Potts and A. R. Lowe have audited the annexed accounts and offer themselves for re-election.

A. G. WOOD,
Chairman.

WORKING ACCOUNT,

1st January to 31st December, 1905.

Dr.	\$	c.
To charges account:—		
Rent, salaries, legal and surveyors' fees, taxes, stamp, stationery, &c.	41,338.86	
Directors' and auditors' fees	7,400.00	
		48,738.86
To commission account:—		
Agents' commissions	41,773.13	
To exchange account:—		
Difference in exchange	2,972.48	
To losses account, 1905:—		
Claims after deduction of re-insurances	68,218.24	
To amount written off:—		
Furniture account	100.00	
To balance	344,098.98	
		\$505,931.69
Cr.	\$	c.
By premium account:—		
Premiums after deduction of re-insurances	371,162.46	
By interest account:—		
Amount at credit, including interest due on deposits and investments, &c.	134,639.09	
By transfer fee account:—		
Amount at credit	139.14	
		\$505,931.69

BALANCE SHEET

31st, December 1905.

	\$	c.
LIABILITIES.		
Capital account	400,000.00	
Reserve fund	1,000,000.00	
Extra reserve fund	229,488.02	
Investment fluctuation account	2,616.75	
Accounts payable:—		
Dividend for 1904	120,000.00	
Losses outstanding and sundries	21,086.48	
Working account, 1905:—		
Balance at credit	344,098.98	
		\$2,117,299.23
	\$	c.
ASSETS.		
Cash at bankers	26,352.08	
Fixed deposits at banks:—		
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation	197,035.53	
Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China	30,000.00	
Mercantile Bank of India, Limited	20,000.00	
International Banking Corporation	25,000.00	
		272,035.53
Investments:—		
Chinese Imperial Government E. bonds	76,058.53	
Hongkong Club debentures	37,100.00	
Hongkong Hotel Co., Limited, debentures	50,000.00	
Shanghai Land Investment Co., Limited, debentures	49,877.40	
Shanghai Waterworks Co., Limited, debentures	8,472.22	
Shares in public companies	132,895.00	
		354,403.15
Loans on mortgage:—		
On properties in Hongkong	1,373,300.00	
Furniture account:—		
Office furniture, &c.	943.10	
Accounts receivable:—		
Premia due from agencies, interest due on deposits and investments, &c.	90,256.37	
		\$2,117,299.23

On February 9th, as the people of Woosung were holding a procession of one of their idols, some "braves" belonging to the garrison in that town, having insulted some young women who were sightseeing, were set upon by the populace and badly beaten. The companions of the soldiers who had got off in time then went to the camp and brought out some sixty or seventy men more to get revenge on the populace, which by this time amounting to some couple of thousand would have made it hot for the "braves" had they not thought, as usual, discretion the better part of valour, and run off. Then the magistrate of Paoshan appeared on the scene and with difficulty pacified the people, who demanded the punishment of the guilty soldiers. Fortunately, no one was very badly hurt and so, having promised the people that he would get justice for them, the magistrate finally got them to return to their homes.

HONGKONG AMATEUR DRAMATIC CLUB.

PRESENTATION OF "PRINCESS TOTO."

The Hongkong Amateur Dramatic Club are to be congratulated on their successful presentation of "Princess Toto." On Feb. 15 witnessed the inaugural performance of a week's run in the Theatre Royal, and it is satisfactory to be able to pronounce the venture as praiseworthy as any in the history of the Club. This is all the more gratifying when it is remembered that the organisation has suffered the loss of some of its more prominent members, notably Mr. George Lammert, who had recently to leave very hurriedly in the interests of his wife's health, but worthy successors have been found to take the places of those who from various causes are no longer found in the ranks of the amateurs, so that the club's reputation for doing things well is not likely to experience any change or betray any indications of deterioration.

In selecting "Princess Toto" for performance, the Club have exercised a wise judgment. It is not too intricate, and affords ample scope for individuality, especially for some of the principals in the domain of fun and frolic, while the chorus work is pleasing without being too exacting. The opera is at the same time thoroughly Gilbertian. It bristles with laughable absurdities and grotesque situations. As is pretty well known, the story, such as it is, centres round the movements of a very eccentric Royal family. King Portico, who might be described as an amiable nonentity filling an exalted position, is harassed with the necessity of maintaining his dignity, so that "we may not appear ridiculous in the eyes of surrounding nations." The extent to which this feeling possesses him is indicated by his rejoinder to the minister who opined that they would all "go stark staring mad" in the event of a certain contingency: "Well, go mad in a dignified manner, and in your severest paroxysm remember to maintain your self-respect." To add to the perplexities of the troubled monarch, his only daughter, besides possessing in abundance the usual eccentricities associated with youthful femininity, suffers from extraordinary failures of memory which naturally lead to awkward situations. Betrothed at the age of one to a Prince (Doro) who was understood to be shipwrecked and eaten by savages when he wandered from home, she was later promised in marriage to another Prince (Caramel). This youth is apparently a tardy wooer. He fails to present himself at the court at the time fixed for the wedding. Three days pass, and still no word of the claimant for the hand of the Princess. Naturally the King is becoming anxious. He dreads being made to look ridiculous in the eyes of surrounding nations. On the third day a visitor arrives at the Royal palace. This is no other than Prince Doro, who was thought to have been the victim of the cannibal instincts of a savage tribe. He is anxious to claim his bride, but the Royal parent refuses to countenance his suit and informs him that he is "officially dead." Not unnaturally, Doro does not appreciate his position and after some persuasion induces the King to consent to his marriage in order to "save face." While the ceremony is being performed, the missing bridegroom presents himself at the Palace. The minister left in charge has to explain the matter diplomatically to the Prince, and to make him see the humour of the thing. In this the minister is not quite successful, but the Prince decides to take advantage of the bride's volatile and romantic temperament to come before her as a brigand chief. He does so, and she is so charmed with the prospect of "deeds of derring-do" that she goes off with him, forgetting all about Prince Doro and the fact that she is married. But when she finds that the brigands are rather namby-pamby sort of people, she becomes disgusted. In this frame of mind she is susceptible to the primitive charms of a Red Indian tribe, who carry her off with them. This tribe is also artificial. It is made up of the august members of her father's royal court, with the King at their head, who had formed this plan to induce her to return to the paternal abode. After some very funny situations in which the

Princess fails to remember her suitors, all is sorted out, and with the Princess promising not to repeat her offence of forgetting that she is a married woman, the curtain falls.

Coming now to refer to the performance, there is nothing in it that calls for unfavourable remark. Admittedly there were times when the audience became conscious that the artistes were, after all, amateurs, but on the whole the production went with a swing and a smoothness that materially added to its appreciation by last night's enthusiastic audience. The artistes must have devoted considerable time to the task of perfecting themselves in their respective parts, for all of them seemed thoroughly at home on the stage, and any faults that were noticeable were of a character that would disappear in the course of the series of performances. This highly creditable result was in itself a tribute to the painstaking supervision of Mr. E. W. Mitchell, under whose direction the opera has been produced, and though the audience do not make his acquaintance on the stage the importance of the part which he played was none the less obvious.

While the text of the opera has been very well adhered to, its opportunities for local treatment have not been ignored. Mrs. Francis Clark—about whose performance more anon—is responsible for a song and chorus, entitled "Moon, Moon." This is an attractive composition, and as rendered by herself meets with cordial expressions of approval, the chorus, as sung by the company carrying lanterns, being decidedly pleasing. Mr. Denman Fuller has composed the music for this song, as well as that for "The World of Dreams." His greatest success, however, is the song and chorus, "He's her Hongkong pal," both words and music being from his pen. The words and air are likely to prove catchy. Besides this, the principals introduce many topical allusions.

The chorus has been trained to a high degree of efficiency, and rendered the various concerted pieces in an excellent manner. Their performance was much enhanced by the skilful instrumentation supplied by the orchestra under the direction of Mr. Denman Fuller.

Not a hitch marred the presentation of the opera. Each succeeding act seemed better than the other, and the hearty plaudits and encores by the auditors must have been very flattering to the amateur artistes, all of whom certainly worked with a will. From the scenic point of view the production left little to be desired. The pretty scenes which distinguished each of the three acts was by the staff of the Amateur Dramatic Club, while the elaborate costumes which invested each scene with a picturesque charm were made under the direction of Miss Wallace.

Making individual mention of the artistes, "Princess Toto" ought to come first. This rôle was filled by Mrs. Francis Clark, who was throughout easy, natural and convincing. The vivacious, romantic temperament of the king's daughter, skilfully shown, did not call for so much genuine acting perhaps as her extraordinary facility for forgetting things. The humorous element, associated with this trait, was admirably presented. She also gained golden opinions as a vocalist, her contributions pleasing the audience by their theme as well as by the manner in which they were rendered. She was ably supported by Miss D. Humphreys as Jelly (who acquitted herself with a distinction both as an actress and a vocalist), Miss Cohen as Follette (who proved a most accomplished singer and danseuse and had to respond to several encores for her clever castanet dance and other performances) and by Mrs. Perkins as Flummery. King Portico, dignified, yet eccentric, could hardly have had a better exponent than Mr. W. M. Stewart. He preserved the serio-comic aspect throughout without any suggestion of buffoonery, and his performance cannot be more adequately described than in the word artistic. Zapeter, his prime minister—a name which called forth memories of the Happy Valley—was well taken by Mr. H. M. Kendall, who brought out its humour most effectively. Mr. M. S. Northcote found the portrayal of Jamilek, the Foreign Secretary, much to his liking. He revelled in the "Hiawathan" speeches which he had to deliver and made the most of the rôle with

humorous asides and funny antics. Very successful also was Mr. Grimbale as Trombono, who dressed for the part admirably. Surgeon Horley, who took the part of Prince Doro at short notice, was responsible for much of the humour of the evening, and acted and sang in a manner which many a professional might well envy, while Mr. E. S. Carruthers in the characterisation of Prince Caramel was seen to advantage. The other artistes took the parts assigned them with credit. This notice should not be concluded without a reference to Mesdames Cohen, Lambert and E. Rowe, who showed themselves neat and skilful dancers, and had to repeat their performance to a delighted audience. In short, the production afforded an excellent night's entertainment.

The cast is set out below:

CHARACTERS.

King Portico	Mr. W. M. Stewart
Zapeter (His Prime Minister)	H. M. Kendall
Trombono (His Lord Chamberlain)	G. Grimbale
Jamilek (His Foreign Secretary)	M. S. Northcote
Prince Doro	Surg. Horley, R.N.
Prince Caramel	Mr. E. S. Carruthers
Count Floss	G. G. Franklin
Baron Jacquier	A. E. Paine
Prisoner	R. Whitmore
Princess Toto	Mrs. Francis Clark
Jelly	Miss D. Humphreys
Follette	Miss Cohen
Flummery	Mrs. Perkins
Pages to the King	Masters Bullock & Martin.
Ladies of the Court, Gipsies, Peasants, Indians, etc.	Mesdames Andrews, Capell, Drew, Hance, E. Jones, Jones, Lambert, Moon, Morris, Perkins, Rowe, E. Rowe, Schroeter, and Schmidt.
Gentlemen of the Court, Bandits, Indians, &c.	Messrs. J. D. Auld, F. A. Biden, Tom Clarke, A. J. Darby, W. A. Dowley, H. W. Dermor, C. E. A. Humphreys, G. Humphreys, C. Hance, J. Hance, H. S. Holmes, J. Lambert, C. E. Parker, H. F. Petlay, L. C. Rees, G. Morton Smith, J. J. Sibbitt, R. H. Spearman, A. E. Wright, and J. A. Young.
Principal Dancers	Mesdames Cohen, Lambert and E. Rowe.

The Orchestra was composed as follow:

Musical Director: Mr. Denman Fuller.
F.R.C.O., L.R.A.M.
1st Violins: Mr. F. C. Barlow, Mr. H. F. Hickman, Mr. A. Pearson, and Mr. A. Schmitz.
2nd Violins: Mr. Catchick and Mr. J. C. Rosario.
Viola: Mr. F. Gonzales. Cello: Mr. P. Miller. Double Bass: Dr. J. H. Swan. Flute: Mr. J. D. Osmund. Oboe: Mr. W. Anderson.
Clarinet: Mr. A. S. Tuxford. Cornets: Mr. W. H. Bristow and Mr. A. Darby.
Side Drum and Triangle: Mr. F. Caesar.
Organ: Mr. E. F. Bovet.
Piano: Mr. E. J. Chapman.

In addition to the usual compliments bestowed on Miss Cohen, she was last night made the recipient of a handsome bouquet.

VICEROY SHUM.

Students of psychology cannot fail to be interested, writes the *N.-C. Daily News*, in the case of the present Acting Viceroy of the Two Kuang. His father, Tsên Yü-ying, was Viceroy of Yunnan, and it was he who put down the Mahomedan rebellion with such an unsparing and ruthless hand. He practised the traditional cruel Chinese methods of pacification, methods summed up in one word, extermination; he actually "made a solitude, and called it peace," and Yunnan has not yet recovered. It has always been believed that it was by his direct orders that Mr. A. R. Margary, whose monument stands at the corner of the Reserve Garden, was murdered; and it was the then Consul Davenport's dearest wish that that monument should be erected in the grounds of the British Consulate, so that every Chinese official who visited the Consulate should be obliged to pass under it. Having put down the rebellion, H. E. Tsên Yü-ying ruled Yunnan as an absolute autocrat, by terror.

His elder son, H. E. Tsên Chunhsian, [whom we call "Shum"] was given an honorary degree, on account of his father's services to the Throne, and his first employment was in

1892 as sub-Director of the Court of Imperial Entertainments. In the following year he became Director of the Imperial Stud. These appointments were more or less sinecures, but in 1898 he was given active work as Provincial Treasurer of Kuangtung. In December of the same year he was removed to the same post in Kansu. In 1900 he was made Governor of Shensi, although he did not conceal the fact that his principles were so opposed to those of his late father that he was one of the leaders, from his rank, of the Reform party in the Empire. In 1901 he was transferred to Shansi as Governor, where he was supreme in his province, Shansi being one of the three provinces that have no Viceroy. He was so successful as a Governor, so popular with all, and such a successful administrator, that in 1902 he received the high honour of having a Yellow Jacket conferred upon him. In the same year he was sent as Governor to Kuangtung, and in 1903 was made Acting Viceroy of the Two Kuang; being a native of Kuangsi, he could not be given the substantive post; but his fame as a man of intelligence, enlightenment, and vigour was so well established that he was specially sent to Canton to put down the so-called rebellion in his native province. His appointment was hailed with delight by the Cantonese; for he made himself so popular when he was Provincial Treasurer at Canton that when the news came that he was to be transferred, the people built a wall of bags full of rice in front of the gate of his yamen to prevent his leaving them. Gradually, however, the exercise of the arbitrary power of life and death, and the difficulties he has had in dealing with the corruption and incompetence rampant in the civil and military administration of his two provinces, have entirely changed his nature. He has retained his ability to govern, but the inherited bloodthirstiness in his character has come to the surface. He has been ruthless in his dealing with the so-called rebels in Kuangsi, and in his chastisement of the corrupt officials under him; he did not hesitate as we reported some time ago, to publicly drink the blood of a bandit whose execution he was attending; and from being the most popular official he has now become the best hated man, by foreigners and natives alike, in the two southern provinces. Having scorned when he went to Canton to avail himself of the illegitimate sources of revenue exploited by some of his predecessors, and having to meet the expense of constant and protracted expeditions against the rebels in Kuangsi, his treasury has been badly supplied, and he has had to impose taxes which have alienated his people. He has shown himself lately a violent enemy of foreigners; he has made no real efforts to suppress the boycott; he turns a deaf ear to the representations of the foreign Consuls, and refuses, under the plea of sickness, even to see them; and on the same plea he evades attendance at the banquets which his position obliges him to give from time to time. One of his latest exploits has been to seize a large quantity of coal belonging to an official whom he has cashiered and whose property he has confiscated, this coal being mortgaged to a foreign bank in Hongkong; but he will listen to no remonstrances. The foreign Consuls, Americans especially, can get nothing out of him. Having been forced to buy back the Canton-Hankow railway from the American syndicate [here our contemporary repeats the history so well known to *Daily Press* readers, quoting from our Canton correspondence]. We have written so fully [our contemporary continues], because foreigners are seriously interested. A rising against the Viceroy in Canton will be disastrous to foreigners on Shameen and to foreign commerce; and the Viceroy has so completely turned his back on his former friendliness to foreigners that his present obduracy may have to be forcibly corrected. His remaining in power at Canton is impossible. It is reported in the south that the Viceroy is going with his family to Japan as soon as he can get leave.

Messrs. Erich Georg & Co. have received a telegram from Shanghai saying that "Lang-kats" are to pay an interim dividend of Tls. 7.50 per share on account of the current year. This will be payable on March 15th.

COMMERCIAL.

YOKOHAMA MARKET REPORT.

This Report, published by the Yokohama Foreign Board of Trade, dated Yokohama Jan. 30th, 1906, has the following:—

IMPORTS.

Yarns.—Nominal, no transactions. **Shirtings.**—Market dull. **Fancy Cottons and Wollens.**—There is very little enquiry of any kind—the lunar New Year celebrations have interfered with business. **Metals.**—A slightly better feeling is noticeable in the metal market, but stocks are still too heavy for a really healthy activity. **Kerosene.**—Market quiet, but with a slight upward tendency. **Sugar.**—No improvement in demand has taken place since last report, and the market has remained inactive. The Tokyo Refinery sold 5,000 bags at the auction on the 16th inst., with no change in prices since the previous sale on the 6th, and no business was put through at their auction on the 26th. Some 8,000 bags German Beet are said to have been imported since last Report. **Indigo (natural).**—No reliable prices are available in the absence of supplies.

EXPORTS.

Raw Silk.—Since the 8th inst. the date of issue of our last Report, only a very small business has been done; but, in spite of this fact prices have remained firm and practically unchanged. At the close things continue very quiet, but holders are as yet unwilling to grant concessions.

Waste Silk.—Moderate business. The Japanese Schappe Spinning Mill, too, have of late been buyers on our market and have paid full prices. The goods now on offer are mostly winter reeled and of unsatisfactory quality. **Settlements since January 9th to Jan. 17th:**—2,200 piculs. **Total Settlements since July 1st to Jan. 17th:**—43,630 piculs. **Stock on the 17th Jan.** is estimated at 5,400 piculs, viz:—Noshi, 1,500 piculs; Kibizze, 3,200 piculs; Pierced Cocoons,—piculs; Sundries, 700 piculs.

Tea.—Season closed.—nothing to report. **Total settlements from May 1st to Jan. 30th:** amount to 109,694 piculs, against 178,600 piculs at the corresponding date last year. **Quotations:**—Common, Good common, Medium, Good Medium, Fine, Finest, Choice and Choicest Nominals.

Fish Oil.—Prices have further advanced, and are now up to Yen 5.80, and a few purchases are reported at about this figure. **Copper.**—Home markets are weaker, and Manufacturers are holding back waiting for an improvement.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 23rd February.—A downward tendency continues, market being very dull.

Shekloong, No. 1, White.....	\$8.40 to \$8.45 pcl.
Do. " 2, White.....	7.20 to 7.25 "
Do. " 1, Brown.....	6.30 to 6.35 "
Do. " 2, Brown.....	5.30 to 5.45 "
Swatow, No. 1, White.....	8.00 to 8.10 "
Do. " 2, White.....	7.10 to 7.15 "
Do. " 1, Brown.....	6.00 to 6.05 "
Do. " 2, Brown.....	5.60 to 5.65 "
Foodhow Sugar Candy.....	10.50 to 10.60 "
Shekloong.....	9.55 to 9.60 "

RICE.

Messrs. Wm. G. Hale & Co.'s Circular, dated Saigon 9th February, 1906, states:—Scanty arrivals of grain from the Interior, and a strong demand from Java, together with enquiries from China and Japan, caused a rise in prices since our last advices. Our market closes, however, somewhat easier, due to the expectation of arrivals from the interior increasing.

We quote for November delivery.

No. 2 White sifted (trié) steam milled (round).....	per picul
No. 2 White unsifted (ordinaire) steam milled (round).....	\$3.34
5 % Cargo steam milled (round).....	\$3.10
10 % Cargo steam milled (round).....	\$3.00
20 % Cargo steam milled (round).....	\$2.95

* Prices according to terms and conditions

HONGKONG, 23rd February.—The prices are the same as when last reported.

Saigon, Ordinary.....	\$2.80 to \$2.85
" Bound, good quality.....	3.60 to 3.65
" Long.....	3.70 to 3.75
Siem, Field-mill cleaned, No. 2.....	2.90 to 2.95
" Garden, " No. 1.....	3.75 to 3.80
" White.....	4.00 to 4.05
" Fine Cargo.....	4.20 to 4.25

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 22nd February, 1906.—The movements in our various Opium markets have been as follows:—

	Malwa.	Patna.	Benares.	Persian.
Stocks as per circular of 8th February, 1906.....	1,880	2,481	1,316	1,635
Feb. 9th Imports per Dongola.....	189	—	—	36
" 9th " " C. Apear.....	—	227	20	—

Less Exports to Shanghai.....	2,069	2,708	1,336	1,731
Less Exports to East and West Coast Ports including Local Consumption for the fortnight.....	152	726	254	37

Estimated Stocks this day .. 1,897 1,932 1,382 1,694

Bengal.—The market declined to \$855 for Patna and \$820 for Benares when a good demand arose, owing to stock in Chinese hands getting very light, and prices advanced about \$5.

The market closes quiet as importers are anxious to continue selling.

Malwa.—The demand has been on a very small scale indeed and the market is weak. **Quotations are:**—

New.....	\$1,000
2 years old.....	1,020
3 " ".....	1,050
4/5 " ".....	1,130
Oldest.....	1,180

Persian.—Market is quite.

HONGKONG, 22nd February.

Quotations are:—Allowance net to 1 catty.

Malwa New.....	\$1000	to	—	per picul
Malwa Old.....	\$1050	to	—	do.
Malwa Older.....	\$1100	to	—	do.
Malwa Very Old.....	\$1170	to	—	do.
Persian fine quality.....	\$1100	to	—	do.
Persian extra fine.....	\$1150	to	—	do.
Patna New.....	\$855	to	—	per chest.
Patna Old.....	\$845	to	—	do.
Benares New.....	\$820	to	—	do.
Benares Old.....	\$810	to	—	do.

COAL.

Messrs. Hughes and Hough, in their Coal Report of Feb. 22nd, state that 14 steamers are expected at Hongkong with a total of 57,050 tons of coal. Since February 6th 15 steamers have arrived with a total of 45,140 tons of coal. Quotations:—

Cardiff.....	\$15.00 ex-ship, nominal.
Australian.....	9.50 \$10.25 ex-ship, steady.
Yubari Lump.....	12.00 nominal.
Miki Lump.....	11.00 to 12.00 steady.
Moji Lump.....	9.00 to 10.00 ex-ship.
Akaike.....	9.75 to 10.00 steady.
Bengal.....	9.00 to 9.25 steady.

COTTON.

HONGKONG, 23rd February.—Small business, market quiet. Stock about 500 bales.

Bombay.....	\$18.00 to \$20.00 per pcl.
Bengal (New), Rangoon } and Dacca.....	18.00 to 23.50 "
Shanghai and Japanese.....	26.00 to 27.00 "
Tungchow and Ningpo.....	26.00 to 27.00 "

Reported sales 150 bales.

YARN.

Mr. P. Eduljee in his report dated Hongkong, 23rd February, says:—Since our last issue the market has been very quiet, and particularly so during the past week. A general disinclination on the part of buyers to continue business is apparent, but with importers anxious to realise their holdings in a high exchange, parcels here and there change hands whenever special inducement is offered. Values show a depreciation of \$1 to \$2 per bale, and as stocks are increasing rapidly the off-take for shipment is small, and deliveries very slow; a further heavy decline in prices is imminent.

Sales during the interval aggregate 2,491 bales, arrivals 12,000, stocks estimated 80,000, and sold but uncleared goods in second hands 37,000.

Local Manufacture.—Continues quiet.

Japanese Yarn.—No stock or transactions.

Raw Cotton.—Although stocks are insignificant and supplies almost checked, there is no change in the continued quietness of the raw material, both Indian and Chinese. The business of the fortnight amounts to the sale of 350 bales Bengals at \$22 to \$23, and of 80 bales Thoongchow at \$24. Stocks 335 bales Indian and 290 bales Chinese. **Quotations are** \$20 to \$23 Bengal, and \$22 to \$25 Chinese.

Exchange on India shows an advance of 3 points during the interval and closes firm to-day at Rs. 154 for T/T and Rs. 154 for Post. On Shanghai 71½ and on Japan 111½.

The undernoted business in imported and local spinings is reported from Shanghai during the week ended the 10th instant, viz:—

Indian.—Quiet but firm. **Total sales 1,250 bales with an estimated stock of 73,000.**

Japanese.—Strong and advancing. **Sales of the interval aggregate 1,500 bales on the basis of Tls 93 to 103 for No. 16s, and Tls. 106½ to 110 for No. 20s.**

Local.—Quiet and nothing doing.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 23rd February.—The prices ruling are as follows:—

COTTON YARN.	per bale
Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20, ...	\$90.00 to \$128.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24, ...	140.00 to 160.00
" 22 to 24, ...	160.00 to 165.00
" 28 to 32, ...	167.50 to 175.00
" 38 to 42, ...	180.00 to 190.00

Reported sales 9,000 bales.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.	per piece
Grey Shirtings—6 lbs.	\$2.20 to \$2.25
7 lbs.	2.30 to 2.40
8.4 lbs.	3.00 to 4.00
9 to 10 lbs.	4.10 to 5.30
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd.	2.80 to 3.00
58 to 60 "	3.10 to 3.60
64 to 66 "	3.80 to 5.40
Fine.....	6.10 to 8.00
Book-folds.....	5.80 to 8.10
Victoria Lawns—12 yards ...	0.80 to 1.00
T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y.	2.20 to 2.30
7lbs. (32 ") ..	2.70 to 3.00
6lbs. (32 ") Mexs.	2.25 to 2.70
7lbs. (32 ") ..	2.80 to 3.20
8 to 8.4 oz., (36 in.) ..	3.25 to 3.80
Drills, English—40 yds., 13½ " to 14 lbs. }	5.10 to 8.00

FANCY COTTONS.	
Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to 8 lbs. }	1.70 to 3.75

Brocades—Dyed.....	0.12½ to 0.15½
Chintzes—Assorted.....	0.00 to 0.30
Velvets—Black, 22 in.	0.22 to 0.50
Velveteens—18 in.	0.22 to 0.28

Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk.....	0.56 to 1.20
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WOOLLENS.	per yard
Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops.....	0.70 to 2.00

Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths.....	1.25 to 3.50
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Long Ells—Scarlet, 7-9 lbs.	7.75 to 9.25
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Assorted.....	7.90 to 9.40
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Camlets—Assorted.....	13.00 to 31.00
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Lastings—30 yds. 31 inches } Assorted.....	12.00 to 20.00
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Orleans—Plain, 31 in.	9.50 to 11.50
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Blankets—5 to 12 lbs.	0.65 to 1.85
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METALS.	per picul.
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Iron—Nail Rod.....	4.10 to —
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Square, Flat Round Bar (Eng.	4.10 to —
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Swedish Bar.....	4.15 to —
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Small Round Rod.....	4.45 to —
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Hoop ½ to 1½ in.....	6.20 to —
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Wire, 16/25 oz.....	9.50 to —
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Wire Rope, Old.....	3.00 to —
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Lead, L.B. & Co. and Hole Chop.....	11.00 to —
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Australian.....	11.00 to —
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Yellow Metal—Muntz 14/20 oz.....	42.00 to —
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Vivian's 14/20 oz.....	42.00 to —
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Elliot's 14/20 oz.....	42.00 to —
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Composition Nails.....	— to —
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Japan Copper, Slabs.....	— to —
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Tin.....	89.00 to —
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Tin-Plates.....	6.90 to —
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Steel ½ to ½.....	— to —
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Quicksilver.....	127.00 to —
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Window Glass.....	5.00 to —
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MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per steamer Preussen, sailed on 14th February.
For Naples:—400 cases cassia, 200 bales cassia
For Genoa:—100 cases cassia, 20 cases essential oil, 10 bales raw silk. **For Antwerp:**—2 cases cigars.
For Antwerp or Hamburg:—50 bales feathers, 50 cases bristles. **For Amsterdam:**—18 cases chinaware, 10 cases tea sticks, 2 cases blackwoodware.
For Bremerhaven:—10 cases human hair. **For Bremen:**—117 rolls matting, 77 bales feathers, 8 cases rattanware, 6 cases blackwoodware. **For Hamburg:**—257 bales feathers, 200 cases cassia buds, 5 cases feathers, 4 cases curios, 2 cases human hair, 2 cases blackwoodware, 2 rolls matting. **For Copenhagen:**—100 cases cassia, 50 cases preserves, 2 cases preserves. **For London:**—85 rolls matting.

Per steamer *Patroclus*, sailed on 15th February. For Port Said:—600 cases cassia, 50 rolls mats, 7 cases human hair. For London:—70 bales waste silk, 20 cases human hair, 20 cases essential oil, 210 casks ginger, 750 cases ginger, 192 cases shells, 30 packages sundries, 5 cases wood oil. For London or Cont.:—20 cases bristles, 28 cases camphor, 64 bales cases. For Antwerp:—800 bales bamboo scraps, 4 packages leaf tobacco. For London or Glasgow or Dundee:—100 casks ginger. For London or Glasgow:—100 casks ginger, 380 rolls mats.

Per M. M. Co.'s steamer *Salazie*, sailed on 20th February. For Marseilles:—120 bales raw silk, 3 cases silk piece goods, 19 bales human hair, 2 cases porcelain, 4 cases rattan furniture, 14 cases hats, 4 cases cigars, 6 ylang ylang oil, 10 packages sundries. For Lyons:—150 bales raw silk. For Tunis:—1 case silk piece goods. For Tamatave:—17 cases provisions.

HANKOW, 23rd Feb., 1906:—The prices quoted are for the net shipping weight excluding cost of packing for export:—

	Per picul.
Cowhides, Best Selected...	Tls. 37.75
Do. Seconds	33.50
Buffalo hides, Best Selected	18.00
Goatskins, untanned, chiefly white color ..	60.00
Buffalo Horns, average 3-lbs. each	8.25
White China Grass, Wuchang and/or Poochi	12.00
White China Grass, Sinshan and/or Chayu ..	11.50
Green China Grass, Szechuen	(nom.)
Jute	4.50
White Vegetable Tallow, Kinchow	8.70
White Vegetable Tallow, Pingchev and/or Macheng	8.50
White Vegetable Tallow, Mongyu	8.00
Green Vegetable Tallow, Kiyu	8.50
Animal Tallow	10.00
Gallnuts, usual shape	16.50
Do. Plum do.	18.25
Tobacco, Tingchow	(nom.)
Do. Woukang	(")
Black Bristles	115.00
Feathers, Grey and/or White Duck ..	(nom.)
" " Wild Duck ..	(")
Turmeric	3.50
Sesamum Seed	4.30
Sesamum Seed Oil	7.50
Vegetable Tallow Seed Oil	(nom.)
Wood Oil	8.20
Tea Oil	10.00

EXCHANGE.

FRIDAY, 23rd February.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	2/0 1/4
Bank Bills, on demand	2/0 1/4
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight ..	2/1
ON LONDON.—	
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight ..	2/1 1/4
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2/1 1/4
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight ..	2/1 1/4
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	261
Credits 4 months' sight	265
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	213
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	50 1/4
Credits, 60 days' sight	51 1/4
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	154 1/4
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Bank, on demand	154 1/4
Telegraphic Transfer	154 1/4
Bank, on demand	154 1/4
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	71 1/4
Private, 30 days' sight	72 1/4
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	101 1/4
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	101 1/4
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	13 1/2 p.c.p.m.
ON BATAVIA.—	
On demand	124 1/4
ON HAIPHONG.—	
On demand	2 1/2 p.c.p.m.

ON SAIGON—
On demand 2 1/2 p.c.p.m.
ON BANGKOK.—
On demand 61 1/2
SEVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate \$9.55
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael \$50.50
BAR SILVER, per oz. 30 1/2

FREIGHT.

From Hankow per Conference Steamers.—To London and Northern Continental ports 46/- per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To Genoa, Marseilles or Harve 41/6 per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (via Suez) 32/- per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (Overland). Tea G. \$1 1/2 cents per lb. gross, plus river freight. To Shanghai: Tea and General Cargo, Tls. 1.80 per ton, weight or measurement.

SHARE REPORTS.

HONGKONG, 23rd February, 1906.—With the exception of Marines, and a few other stocks which have ruled firm, we have to report an almost general tendency to weakness in rates during the week under review. The continued persistent firmness in sterling exchange against general anticipations, and the consequent inducement to realize silver securities is quite sufficient to account for this, and if it were not that our local concerns are in nearly every case doing well, the decline in rates must necessarily have been very much more accentuated than it is.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have declined to \$390 with sales and sellers, after small sales, at \$392 1/2. Nationals remain unchanged with buyers and no business to report.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions have changed hands during the week at \$735, \$737 1/2 and \$740, closing steady at \$750. China Traders, with an unsatisfied demand at \$91, gradually rose, after sales at \$91 1/2 and \$92 to \$92 1/2, at which last rate the market closes firm with buyers. Cantons continue in request at \$335 to \$340, but few shares appear to be available except at an advance. Yangtszes and North Chinas remain unchanged and without any local business.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs continue out of favour and without sales at \$320. Chinas, after small sales at \$88, have improved to \$89 with buyers. The latter Company's report just published recommends a dividend of 25 per share.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have ruled rather weaker with sales and sellers at \$24 1/2. Indos continue neglected at \$97 with little or no business. Douglasses have changed hands at \$40 and more shares are wanted at that rate. China-Manilas continue in request at \$21 without bringing any shares on the market. Other lines under this heading continue dull and neglected, and we have no business to report.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars, with a few shares on offer, apparently for settlement account, have ruled rather easier and \$214 has failed to secure buyers. Luzons have declined to \$39 with sellers and no sales.

MINING.—With the exception of Raubs, which have declined to \$3 1/2, we have nothing to report under this heading.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—All stocks under this heading have ruled weak and with little or no business to report.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have been placed at \$118 and \$117, closing with sellers at the former rate. Hotels are on offer at \$149, and \$148 would probably be accepted. Humphreys' Estates have sellers at \$12 but we have no sales to report.

COTTON MILLS.—Unchanged and without any local business except Hongkongs which are wanted at \$15.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Islands have been the medium of a fair business at \$31 1/2, \$32, \$32 1/2 and \$33, closing steady at the last rate. Hongkong Electrics (old) have found buyers at \$16 1/2 and close rather better at \$16 1/2, while new shares have been placed at \$15 1/2, \$15 1/2 and \$16, closing with sellers at the higher rates. Steam Waterboats have declined to \$10 without sales. China Light and Powers have been placed at \$9. Watsons are enquired for at \$12.75, but sellers rule the market at \$13. We have nothing further to report under this heading.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Alhambra	\$200	\$100
Banks—		
Hongkong & Shanghai	\$125	\$890 London, 205.10
National B. of China		
A. Shares	25	\$38, buyers
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	12s. 6d.	\$6 1/2, sellers
China-Borneo Co.	\$12	\$10, sellers
China Light & P. Co.	\$10	\$9, sales
China Provident	\$10	\$8.90, sellers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 50	Tls. 54, buyers
Hongkong	\$10	\$15, buyers
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 40
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 60
Soychees	Tls. 500	Tls. 250
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$15 1/2, sellers
Docks & Wharves—		
Farnham, B. & Co.	Tls. 100	Tls. 124, buyers
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$107, sellers
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$163, sellers
New Amoy Dock	\$6 1/2	\$17
Shanghai & H. Wharf	Tls. 100	Tls. 230, sellers
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$24 1/2, sellers
G. Island Cement	\$10	\$33, sellers
Hongkong & C. Gas	\$210	\$175, buyers
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$16 1/2, buyers
Do. New	\$10	\$16, sales & sel.
H. H. L. Tramways	\$100	\$215, buyers
Hongkong Hotel Co.	\$50	\$149, sellers
Hongkong Ice Co.	\$25	\$230, buyers
Hongkong Rope Co.	\$50	\$152, buyers
H'kong S. Waterboat	\$10	\$10, sellers
Insurances—		
Canton	\$50	\$340, buyers
China Fire	\$20	\$89, buyers
China Traders	\$25	\$92 1/2, buyers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$320, sellers
North China	25	Tls. 92 1/2
Union	\$100	\$750
Yangtsze	\$60	\$175, buyers
Land and Buildings—		
H'kong Land Invest.	\$100	\$118, sellers
Humphreys' Estate	\$10	\$12, sellers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$37, sellers
Shanghai Land	Tls. 50	Tls. 114
West Point Building	\$50	\$53, sellers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$490
Raubs	18/10	\$3 1/2
Philippine Co.	\$10	\$5, buyers
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$214, sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$39, sellers
Steamship Companies		
China and Manila	\$25	\$21, buyers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$40, sales & buyers
H., Canton & M.	\$15	\$24 1/2, sellers
Indo-China S.N. Co.	\$210	\$97, sellers
Shell Transport Co.	21	24/-
Do. Preference	\$210	\$28. 10s.
Star Ferry	\$10	\$32
Do. New	\$5	\$23, sellers
Shanghai & H. Dyeing	\$50	\$50
South China M. Post.	\$25	\$20, sellers
Steam Laundry Co.	\$5	\$7, sellers
Do.	\$5	\$6 1/2, sellers
Stores & Dispensaries.		
Campbell, M. & Co.	\$10	\$36
Powell & Co., Wm.	\$10	\$11, sales
Watkins	\$10	\$6, sellers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$13, sellers
United Asbestos	\$4	\$9
Do. Founders	\$10	\$160

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

February—

ARRIVALS.

- 19, Albert Rickmers, Ger. sh., from New York.
 19, Andree Rickmers, Ger. str., from Bangkok.
 19, Chiyuen, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 19, Frithjof, Norwegian str., from Anping.
 19, Hangsang, British str., from Shannhai.
 19, Hanyang, British str., from Canton.
 19, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.
 19, J. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Haiphong.
 19, Java, British str., from London.
 19, Kweichow, British str., from Shanghai.
 19, Loongsang, British str., from Manila.
 19, Nord, Norwegian str., from Moji.
 19, Oceanien, French str., from Marseilles.
 19, Persia, Austrian str., from Trieste.
 19, Silesia, German str., from Hamburg.
 19, Thyra, Norwegian str., from Kuchinotsu.
 19, Windsor, British str., from Fremantle.
 19, Zafiro, British str., from Manila.
 20, Bengali, British str., from London.
 20, Borussia, Ger. str., from Wilhelmshavn.
 20, Chunsang, British str., from Hongay.
 20, Decidee, French gunboat, from Canton.
 20, Ellerbek, German str., from Hamburg.
 20, Formosa, British str., from Bombay.
 20, J. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Haiphong.
 21, Braemar, British str., from Rangoon.
 21, Helene, German str., from Tourane.
 21, Hong Moh, British str., from Rangoon.
 21, Kwakiang, British str., from Canton.
 21, Kwangtab, Chinese str., from Canton.
 21, Machew, German str., from Bangkok.
 21, Palamcotta, British str., from Rangoon.
 21, Radnorshire, British str., from London.
 22, Antenor, British str., from Yokohama.
 22, Clara Jebson, German str., from Saigon.
 22, Daijin Maru, Japanese str., from Tamsui.
 22, Diomed, British str., from Liverpool.
 22, Eri, Norwegian str., from Chefoo.
 22, Germania, German str., from Saigon.
 22, Glenstrae, British str., from Shanghai.
 22, Haimun, British str., from Amoy.
 22, Hupeh, British str., from Canton.
 22, Machew, German str., from Bangkok.
 22, Waishing, British str., from Wuhu.
 22, Yochow, British str., from Canton.

February— DEPARTURES.

- 19, Hanoi, French str., for Haiphong.
 19, Heimdal, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.
 19, Ningpo, British str., for Canton.
 19, Oceanien, French str., for Shanghai.
 19, Samsen, German str., for Swatow.
 20, Chiyuen, Chinese str., for Canton.
 20, Coptic, British str., for San Francisco.
 20, Haiching, British str., for Coast Ports.
 20, Hangsang, British str., for Canton.
 20, Hanyang, British str., for Shanghai.
 20, Java, British str., for Shanghai.
 20, Keongwai, German str., for Bangkok.
 20, Kweichow, British str., for Canton.
 20, Laertes, British str., for Shanghai.
 20, Lyemmoon, German str., for Shanghai.
 20, Panther, Austrian cruiser, for Macao.
 20, Salezie, French str., for Europe.
 20, Taming, British str., for Manila.
 20, Yangtze, British str., for Shanghai.
 21, Borussia, German str., for Kiauchow.
 21, Frithjof, Norwegian str., for Tamsui.
 21, Kilburn, British str., for Hongay.
 21, Oregon, U.S. or., for Japan & New York.
 21, Persia, Austrian str., for Yokohama.
 21, Pronto, Norwegian str., for Saigon.
 21, Signal, German str., for Haiphong.
 21, Silesia, German str., for Yokohama.
 21, Taian Maru, Japanese str., for Rangoon.
 21, Tartar, British str., for Vancouver.
 22, Apenrade, German str., for Hoihow.
 22, C. of Castile, Brit. str., for Newcastle, N.S.W.
 22, Jacob Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Kebao.
 22, Kwakiang, British str., for Shanghai.
 22, Kowloon, German str., for Tsingtau.
 22, Kwangtab, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 22, Loosok, German str., for Bangkok.
 22, Namsang, British str., for Calcutta.
 22, Nord, Norwegian str., for Singapore.
 22, Thyra, Norwegian str., for Kuchinotsu.
 22, Triumph, German str., for Hongay.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Princess Alice*, for Hongkong from Hamburg, Miss Brettschneider; from Southampton, Mrs. Seymour, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur, Messrs. Powell Grant, B. Layton, Mrs. Sterrill, Miss

Barr, Mrs. Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Thorntild, Miss Fourand, Miss Carling, Messrs. Reynell and Martin; from Genoa, Capt. Ward, Messrs. S. Y. Logart, Oldenburg, Consul Siemssen, Messrs. Witel, Brochate, Alfr. Bloch, Otto Visler, Luigi Versigler and Rich Hams; from Naples, Messrs. Gomez and Fose Gomez; from Port Said, Messrs. Rismarcher, Ch. Tilden, Mr. and Mrs. Parker, Mr. Loull, and Mrs. Armstrong; from Suez, Mr. Melville; from Colombo, Count Ganey, Mr. Lamb, Mr. and Mrs. Hasiwana, Mr. Austin, Mr. and Mrs. Nathan, Messrs. Uhl, Munsell, Misses Marly (2), Messrs. Sighey and Charles Lop; from Singapore, Mr. and Mrs. Curtis, Messrs. E. Velger, Cullen, Malino, Read, Dr. Groseven, Mr. and Mrs. la Rague, Mrs. L. D. Ettmer, Miss Klobner, Mrs. Fenton, Mrs. Morita, and Mr. David Gonnold.

Per *Empress of Japan*, from Vancouver, Mrs. P. Dobbins, Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Dixon, Mr. and Mrs. H. Baldwin, Miss J. McBean, Mr. and Mrs. H. Kitchen, Messrs. C. C. Browet, G. R. Talbot, W. P. L. Saunders, W. H. Whiting and Ishmael Chan; from Yokohama, Mrs. Farrow; from Kobe, Miss S. Leslie, Miss M. Buttlet, Mr. R. M. Kerr, Miss Constable, and Mrs. Ichida and child; from Naga aki, Messrs. Takenichi and Kinimura; from Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Gibson, Mr. A. C. M. Anderson, Capt. F. Katoa, Messrs. J. C. Hoskin and C. Lawton.

Per *Taming*, from Manila, Messrs. Roseburg, Witmer, Chas. E. Laver, James Charlesworth, S. P. Read, G. A. Dargoo, E. G. Byrne, August Fink, W. Davis, A. E. Becker and A. F. Pipfer.

Per *Salazie*, for Hongkong from Kobe, Messrs. de Goth and Thiet; from Shanghai, Miss Ella Shaw, Messrs. Oelrichs, Silva, Groning and Heymann, Capt. E. Christie, Mrs. A. Popier, Rev. Leroux, and Mr. E. Abraham; for Saigon from Shanghai, Messrs. Winling and Sario Carlo; for Singapore from Yokohama, Mr. Shimadzu; from Kobe, Mr. Mok, Mrs. Cremer Matobe, Messrs. Nakano and Hasaku; from Shanghai, Mr. Laurens, Revs. Benjamin (2), Mrs. Judah and 3 children, Mr. Manuel Coris; for Colombo from Yokohama, Mr. Vanenylenberg; for Port Said from Shanghai, Messrs. Alexandrosk, Chrisidis and Florendis; for Marseilles from Yokohama, Mrs. Reux and Mrs. Deutreligne; from Kobe, Messrs. Mock and Coward; from Shanghai, Lieut. Plen, Messrs. H. Mortimore, Pignede, Violet, Capt. Giamarchi, Messrs. Bloch, Patrel, Schidlensky, Fevre, Harger, Pierrot, Mignot, Revs. Paulin and Andre, Messrs. Merlet, Paras, Charlay and Gardin.

Per *Javi*, from London for Hongkong, Messrs. E. Oldenburg, J. H. Chalmers, Lieut. D. Black, and Mr. G. Wybrow; for Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. F. Rayden and 4 children; for Yokohama, Miss N. Martin, Miss I. L. Belben, Surg. and Mrs. R. F. Bate; from Singapore for Hongkong, Mr. and Mrs. Bumb, Messrs. Bicefield and Hadert; for Yokohama, Mr. A. C. Smith.

Per *Chowtai*, from Swatow, Dr. Hohne and Mr. Johannsen.

Per *Haiching*, from Coast Ports, Mr. and Mrs. L. J. Thomas, Messrs. D. H. Cameron, G. E. Anderson, J. W. Clark, Medard, Miss Alphonson, Miss M. Palmer, Mr. J. Palmer, Master H. Palmer, Mr. W. Thom, Miss Thom, Masters Willie and Arthur Jenkins, Misses K. and A. Jenkins, Messrs. Whitfield, P. E. Kalleberg and Michols n.

Per *Silesia*, from Hamburg, &c., Messrs. Schmidt, Knudsen, Gerdes, Brieght, Mr. and Mrs. Kellor, and Miss Buhmann.

Per *Persia*, from Trieste, &c., Mr. Cumberland.

Per *Loongsang*, from Manila, Messrs. Brown and Valentin.

Per *Oceanien*, for Hongkong from Marseilles, Messrs. Leiquel Pla and Greilsommer; from Singapore, Messrs. Mordaunt, Hawley G. and A. Dugaze, Buxton, and Rev. Gabriel; from Saigon, Messrs. A. S. Crook, R. E. O. Bird and Maingault; for Shanghai from Marseilles, Mr. Calandier, Dr. Noirdende, Messrs. Laprun, Monertier, Toothmann, G. du Gardier, Martin, Monien, Mr. and Mrs. Chevallier, Mr. and Mrs. Restelhuber, Mr. Wilden, Mr. and Mrs. Loup, Mr. E. Creuzol, Mrs. V. Sanbiac and 2 daughters, Mr. and Mrs. Harmon, and Miss Le Renaff; from Colombo, Mr. D. D. McLean; for Kobe from Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. S. V. Chiberphe, Mr. and Mrs. Kellary; for Yokohama from Marseilles, Mr. Gysin and family, Capt.

Sheldrake, and Mr. Motono; from Colombo, Mr. Komorasboul; from Singapore, Mr. R. Simpson; from Saigon, Mrs. and Miss de Montford.

Per *Japan*, for London from Kobe, Mr. J. H. Campbell; from Shanghai, Mrs. Kerfoot and infant, Mr. and Mrs. Orr Ewing and 2 children, Misses Ewing (2), Mr. A. Ewing, and Miss Benson.

Per *Yawata Maru*, from Japan for Hongkong, Mr. K. Mori, Mr. and Mrs. A. Marques and 2 children, Messrs. Chas. Kakles, M. S. Husain, Mrs. K. Sawada; for Manila, Capt. and Mrs. G. W. Connor, Messrs. R. S. Dougal, K. Shiga, Mrs. N. Okuno; for Sydney, Messrs. Wm. McCorquodale and A. Littlejohn; for Melbourne, Mr. and Mrs. A. Hamilton and child.

DEPARTED.

Per *Princess Alice*, for Shanghai, Messrs. E. Page, Knight, Slocum, L. Walker, R. E. Kadoorie, Pirie, Cox, Allen, Fearon, Gladstone, Shaw, Ch. Woster, E. E. Clark, C. R. Burkill, G. H. Potts, P. W. Irvine, Kitamura, Balestero, Oku, Yoshikawa, and S. Ezekiel, Mr. and Mrs. Moller, Mrs. Sutherland, Mrs. Gove, Miss Wallace, Mrs. Irvine, Mrs. Cousins, Mr. and Mrs. King; for Nagasaki, Messrs. Michael, Yamaguchi and Hiroshima, Mrs. Bush, Mrs. Ohide; for Kobe, Messrs. G. A. Reid, Homma, Law, Mr. and Mrs. Pritchard, for Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. Erhardt, Mrs. H. Moll, Mrs. Streetfield, Miss Bell, Mr. and Mrs. Morton, Miss Hay, Messrs. H. Linkmeyer, Christen, Ibbotsen, White, and Okane.

Per *Rubi*, for Manila, Mr. and Mrs. Wood, Dr. Fritz Gowven, Mr. F. Jansen, Mr. and Mrs. Gorham, Messrs. J. P. Sebrca, J. Keller, Dr. E. C. Mackle, Mr. E. Munsell, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Kitchen, Mr. and Mrs. H. Baldwin, Mrs. Ruth Dobbins, Messrs. O. C. Brower, C. E. Rath, Dr. Eleanor J. Poud, Misses M. J. Early and E. R. Early, and Mr. M. J. Timke.

Per *Coptic*, for China and Japan ports, Mr. L. S. T. Burrell, Lieut. and Mrs. E. L. Pinney U.S.N., Mrs. E. Chater, Mr. E. Byrne, Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Smith, Miss C. R. Smith, Mr. P. Tragillus, Mrs. F. D. Rice, Mrs. Pierre de Raynal, Messrs. J. C. Fletcher, T. Takuchi and Y. Kimura; for San Francisco, &c., Rev. and Mrs. D. L. Miller, Sir Hubert Jerningham, Messrs. Chas. Cranston and A. T. Stewart, Mrs. H. Stewart, Mrs. A. Brogden, Miss S. Brogden, Messrs. H. C. Chiene, G. Brockman, C. A. Graham, J. B. Blumenthal, H. R. Read, L. A. J. Hargreaves, G. A. Dragoo, J. M. Brown, J. F. Witmer, C. E. Laver, Quan John, Mr. and Mrs. F. S. Hines and child, Mrs. O. G. Benton, Mrs. C. Haffner, Mrs. J. Mackie and 2 daughters, Miss F. F. White, Mr. and Mrs. H. T. Koenor, Mrs. J. A. Gibson, Mr. and Mrs. Emile Nathan, Mr. and Mrs. S. E. Brown, Mrs. B. Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Beattie and infant, Con.-Gen. Geo. E. Anderson.

Per *Oceanien*, for Shanghai, Messrs. A. S. Ousrai, Stempel, Le Colvez, Bermon and Le Gall; for Kobe, Miss Julieth Lotty; for Yokohama, Messrs. Gabriel Besnier and Maurice Laubie.

Per *Salazie*, for Saigon, Messrs. L. Balliste, J. Watt Jameson, Miss Kremer, Mr. J. B. Gutierrez, Mr. and Mrs. Kingdom, Mr. and Mrs. Denir, Messrs. Max F. Schmidt, Cien and J. Resurreccion; for Singapore, Messrs. James Crawford Hanna, Jules Valentin, Thos. G. Hetherington, R. M. Ker, S. C. Wong and J. Tsuruyama, Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Morse; for Colombo, Mr. A. P. Borden; for Marseilles, Messrs. Medard, Manuel Augusto Soares, Montenegro, Martin, Bardy, Pedro Vazquez, and Sister Alphonsine.

Per *Taiar*, for Vancouver, &c., Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Curtis, Messrs. L. W. Longstaff, Jas. Charlesworth, A. L. Malens, Mr. and Mrs. C. R. de la Vergne, Messrs. W. Christen, J. Lyons, J. Johnston, Mrs. I. Monat, Messrs. J. W. Travis, F. H. Jones, C. G. Bruckner, M. Pfeiderer, D. Dow, Mrs. K. Hermann, Mr. S. P. Read, Miss M. Lloyd-Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. G. Galt and 3 children, Mrs. Takahashi, Messrs. R. Otsuka, W. Farquharson, Miss H. Lynn, Mr. and Mrs. P. J. Cullen, Messrs. A. G. Wood, R. Kurakaki, K. Matsuo and C. B. Perkins.

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